

KAWASAKI KORP.

Make Assassins Not War P.7

DO YOU REMEMBER?

WORK LESS NOW!

It's BEN West, Not Adam West! P.6



The

Other Press

LOSING THE DEAD POOL SINCE 1976

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REMEMBER

THE OTHER PRESS

2

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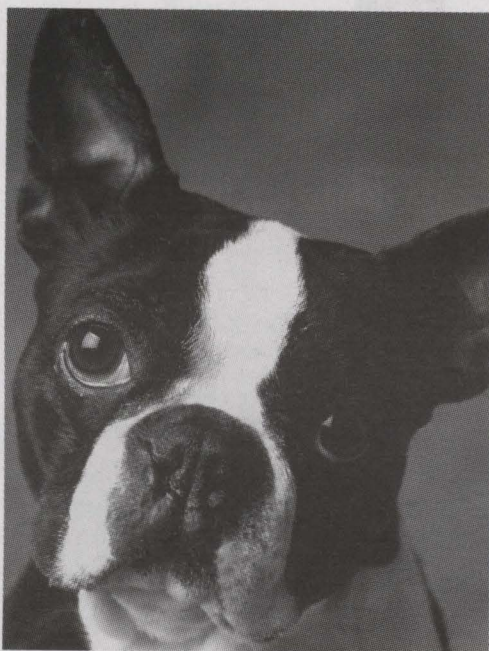
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November 9, 2005



**Happy November
from Mittens!**

THE OP MUSIC CHARTS - Otherwise known as...
What we listened to during the creation of this issue:

Okkervil River—Don't Fall In Love
Ben Kweeler—Sha Sha
Beck—Guero
Elliott Smith—Self Titled
Tenacious D—Self Titled
Pearl Jam—Ten

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The weekly deadline for submissions is
Wednesday for publication the following
Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sec-
tions, and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend
news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be
accepted until Saturday noon and can be sub-
mitted to the editor at othereditor@yahoo.ca

All other submissions should be forward-
ed to the appropriate section editor. Please
include your name, phone number/email
address, and word count, and submit via
email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the
attention of the appropriate editor.

The Other Press is run by a collective,
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the voting collective is open to any person
who has contributed to at least two of three
consecutive issues. Those interested in join-
ing the Other Press collective should contact
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**Congrats to Ian Shamus O' Reevely and Trevor
Hargreaves, the last two week's winners of the
prestigious Other Press employee of the week
Bowling Pulitzer.**



Check out what's
going on at the
Other Press website!
www.theotherpress.ca
Oh My!





I received a white binder full of photocopied pages from my dad last summer. Among the pages of typed text were fuzzy grey pictures with captions bearing my name—or at least my last name—over and over. Frank Miley, the grandpa I never met (dead of polio in 1953). Joseph Miley, Frank's dad and my great grandpa, minor-league catcher and lifetime .286 hitter. Father John Miley, best friend, confidant, and religious advisor to Irish hero, Daniel O'Connell. There was Lucy Miley, Francis Miley, this Miley and that Miley.

In case you haven't figured it out, my new binder contained a family history. I couldn't help but marvel at how much my great grandfather looked like my brother Chris in the 1919 picture of him in his military uniform. As opposed as I am personally to war in general, and the 60 years of war since WWII in particular, I can't help but swell with pride when I remember the sacrifices my family has made during last century's wartimes.

Tales of heroism aside, my favourite story of my family's wartime history came from one Frank Moag.

Stationed in Egypt in 1919, my great uncle Frank happened to be hoisting pints with a bunch of other soldiers. He was an Irishman; most of the other men were Brits. A ranking officer, swelling with equal parts British bravado and Egyptian ale, lifted his drink and toasted to the King. My great uncle answered the toast with a something along the lines of a resounding, "Fuck the King, your mom just did." (I'm paraphrasing here.) He was arrested and court-martialed early the next morning for making untoward remarks against the monarchy.

Being my kind of guy (or, maybe I'm his kind of guy?), he did exactly what I hope I would do. He escaped, caught a red-eye to London, and was again arrested, again drunk, this time with the added charge of impersonating an officer. Turns out he'd "found" a British officer's uniform back in the Egyptian hoosegow and just walked out. He was still wearing the uniform when the five-oh caught up with him in London.

You may be wondering why I'm sharing this tale of an apparently crooked branch from my family's tree with so much lighthearted pride. I'm sharing it because I think if I found myself an Irishman fighting in Egypt for the Brits, I'd probably hold the King in contempt too. I'm sharing this tale because all other indications in my binder spoke of Roger Moag as a good man, a respected man, a man of both intellect and moxie. I'm sharing because good men get wasted and do crazy shit after exposure to war.

But mostly, I'm sharing because I appreciate any person, past or present, who fought for the freedoms I now take largely for granted. Happy Remembrance Day and thank you all.

I usually take this section of my letter to pimp the stories throughout the paper, but thanks to a huge effort from our editors and regular contributors, along with a bevy of relatively new contributors, this issue is so packed with quality content that I want to let y'all find it for yourselves.

I mean, how am I supposed to choose between Nicole Burton's interview with Work Less Party mayoral candidate and Capilano College student, Ben West, and Brandon Ferguson's epic Remembrance Day waxings about his grandpa? How do I decide whether to give a shout out to Brian McLennon's coverage of the Men's Soccer Team's charge to the Nationals or Iain Reeve's hilarious find in this week's *I Found It on the Interweb*? Picking a favourite article this week is like choosing a favourite child.

Alright, alright, I give. I think my pops always liked my sister best, and don't miss the David Suzuki parody in Opinions this week. Man, that Donald Kawasaki has some great ideas for dealing with repeat polluters.

So, when you're done taking a few minutes to quietly give thanks this Remembrance Day, don't forget to take a few more minutes and peruse the paper you're now holding. It may not have fought and died for the freedom of future generations, but it would if it had to.

—Colin Miley, Managing Editor

WOBBLE OF CONTENTS



News 4



Opinions 7



A&E 11



Features 16



Sports 19



**WTF.OMG.BBQ
23**

Over One Week of Riots in Paris Suburbs

Nicole Burton, News Editor

Paris suburbs have been on fire for over a week with protests and riots against police brutality, racism, and the French government. The riots are in response to the killing of two immigrant youths in a run-in with French police.

The Paris suburbs are a concentration of many of France's poorest neighbourhoods, and are home to the majority of the country's Muslim and African immigrant communities. Alongside their French-born children, the population—totalling more than 5 million people—have found themselves to be almost entirely penned into these ghettos and trapped by poverty and substandard housing, combined with racism and harassment at the hands of

French police.

Eruptions among the communities' youth began when Bouna Traore, 15, and Zyed Benna, 17, were killed on October 27 after being chased by police into a subpower station. The two youths were both electrocuted, and a third, Muttin Altun, 17, was hospitalized.

Claims are currently being filed against the police, including "failure to assist a person in danger," by lawyers acting in the teenagers' defence. General sentiment among suburb residents has been that the police are responsible for the deaths.

Police have denied the claims, and have placed blame on criminal gangs, drug-traffickers, and racketeering. Police spokespersons and French officials have downplayed the significance of the riots, which have grown from an outrage against police brutality, to now reflect strong sentiments against the French government.

In Aulnay sur Bois, Clichy-sous-Bois, Le Blanc-Mesnil and other areas on the outskirts of the French capital, a total of more than 500 cars have been set ablaze, along with government offices and police stations. Nearly 150 teenagers have been arrested.

Gender Stereotypes Dissuade Women from Pursuing PSE Engineering and Science Studies

James Watson, Excaliber (York University)

TORONTO (CUP)—Universities across the country are racing to reverse the recent drop in female students admitted to science and engineering disciplines.

As little as five years ago, one third of engineering students were female; today, their presence in the field is 20 percent.

A recent conference, organized by 15 Ontario universities, called Go Eng Girl, aimed to show girls from grades seven to ten what it is like to be an engineer. High schools have no mentorship programs aimed at streaming young people into this field.

"While secondary schools have teachers from many arts and pure sciences backgrounds," says Gillian Wu, York's dean of sciences and engineering, "professional engineers seldom teach at this level, leaving youngsters at a loss."

"This combats a serious problem in attracting females to engineering, namely, a lack of exposure to the field in secondary schools," says Wu, adding, "Math programs in high school need to be renovated."

The community of engineering programs is looking to do just that. Proposals to the admission criteria included incorporating more female-oriented interests.

Jennifer Steele, professor in York University's psychology department, has recently shown that women can be susceptible to gender-related biases that will shift their per-

ceived interests.

"[Women can] become aware of their gender and change their attitudes," said Steele.

In her study, female participants were shown words that were associated with one gender. By flashing words like "lipstick" and "pink," undergraduates tended to have their attitudes towards math and science become more negative, but when shown more "masculine" words, their responses became more positive.

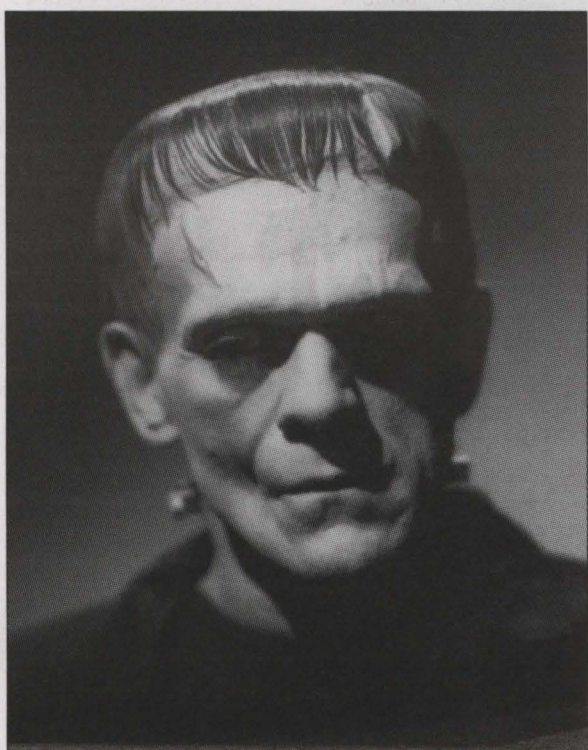
Interestingly, research has shown that men are not as susceptible to this type of influence. Steele infers that this phenomenon leads girls to orient themselves towards fields they associate more with what women should do.

Steele's future research may examine how role models can buffer the effects of gender stereotypes; Dean Wu agrees that this is likely the problem. She says that schools need role models to show girls that engineers are not just socially inept "Dilberts."

"Engineers solve problems," says Wu. "We need to portray this field in a different light, and show women that math is not just for boys."

Frankenstein: Monsterously good theatre

Douglas College Media Release



Allan Lysell has created a monster of a play.

The director was looking for a script that could accommodate a mainly male cast earlier this spring and happened upon an adaptation of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. It wasn't quite right, so Lysell started tinkering with it. Before you could say "Victor Frankenstein," it was alive.

Lysell's version of the classic tale has two sets of characters: one from Mary Shelley's time during the early 19th century, and another from the modern era. The contemporary characters are four research scientists doing stem cell and cloning research.

"It's a play about obsession and how that drives us, perhaps, beyond the bounds of ethical behaviour," says Lysell. "Both sets of characters discuss what the price is for pushing the boundaries, and are you willing to pay that price? Are we willing to play God?"

Lysell says he was astonished at how little had changed in that ethical debate in 200 years since Shelley wrote her novel.

"It's amazing how absolutely topical it is, and that's why it's never been out of print. It's part of our cultural mythology," he says.

Thought-provoking and full of hot-button issues, this production of Frankenstein is presented by the Theatre and Stagecraft Departments of Douglas College. Lysell says he hopes people come out of the theatre willing to enter into debate over the issues.

"But first, I would like them to say: 'Oh, those kids were wonderful actors!' I hope it raises questions that we need to talk about as a society," Lysell says. "There are issues that evoke strong positions and the debate is critical—not talking about it is what's going to get us into trouble."

The players in the production are: Andrew Barber (Dr. Waldman, Old DeLacey, and William), Tony Churko (Trevor Rawlinson), Michael Cope (Victor Frankenstein), Krissy Jesudason (Agatha DeLacey, Elizabeth Lavenza, Natasha Goodman), Patrick Le Breton (Felix DeLacey, Benjamin Alto), Ethan Rush (Flaren, Lawrence Goodman), Mark Sheane (The Creature), and James Simpson (Henry Clerval).

Frankenstein runs in the Performing Arts Theatre of Douglas College from November 12-19. For times, ticket information, and reservations, please call 604.527.5488.

Recent SFU grad now aiming for New West City Council in November 19 elections

Nicole Burton, News Editor



On a ballot of 23 candidates for a total of six positions, there must be something to help one stand out. Simply on first impressions, Jonathan X Cote is off to a good start. Recently graduated from SFU with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History, full of energy at the youthful age of 26 with a catchy "X" middle initial, and, according to Other Press Editor Colin Miley, "He has this adorable puppy." Jonathan is making himself visible and appealing to students and young people.

Though more important, some might argue, are the greater issues arising in New Westminster that necessitate political leadership.

Currently, New Westminster is a city with a population just under 55,000, and primarily, the residents are of an older crowd. Major topics of discussion concerning politicians at the civic level right now are rapid developments in business and higher-income housing, developing better services, and accommodation for the city's heavy traffic and crowded public transportation systems. Underlying a lot of the problems in New West today are the potential crises created by huge pushes in commercial development and the result of an adjust workforce.

Therefore, the needs of seniors and those retiring from work in the coming few years (including, we might

add, nearly 50 percent of Douglas College's instructors) are on the top of Cote's list of "things to do while in office." Others include a number of community projects like neighborhood watch groups and a community centre Downtown. Cote also wants to reduce the amount of revenue brought in by New Westminster's casino industry.

The Other Press regrets not being able to interview Cote for this article before press time.

We encourage all Douglas students to look into the candidates in their areas before voting in the upcoming civic elections on November 19. Douglas students actually living in New Westminster (yea—all 20 of you) should check out some of the following websites:

For more on Jonathan Cote's campaign, visit his website: www.votecote.ca

For information on voting locations, visit: www.city.newwestminster.bc.ca/cityhall/Leg_Info/Election_places_adv_vote.htm

Gomery's Report Condemns Sponsorship Program Excuses PM Opposition parties unable to force election on issue

Nadya Bell, CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP)—The final ruling on the gritty details of Liberal party corruption came out with John Gomery's November 1 report on the Sponsorship Program, which placed a large portion of the blame on former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Brown envelopes of cash, political backroom bullying, and free tickets to the Grand Prix were all part of business conducted in the name of national unity by public servants, the prime minister's office, and the Quebec Liberal party between 1994 and 2002.

The release of Gomery's report divided parliament, with the Conservatives and Bloc Québécois calling for an immediate election. But Jack Layton made no decision about whether the NDP would continue to support the Liberals, and said he wanted a successful parliament.

With no vote that could defeat the government this week, all three opposition parties would have to boycott parliament in order to force an election.

Gomery's commission will deliver two reports, the current one dealing with responsibility, and a second in February to give recommendations to the government.

Prime Minister Martin has said on several occasions that he will call an election after the second report is released.

The sponsorship program began in the mid 1990s as way of creating national unity by promoting the federal government across Canada. Federal Cabinet used this program to advertise Canada in Quebec after the 1995 Quebec referendum on sovereignty.

Gomery's Commission of Inquiry into the Sponsorship Program and Advertising Activities was called because of questions raised in the Auditor General's November 2003 report.

The Auditor General found that the administration and spending of the Sponsorship Program had few internal controls, poorly documented spending, and excessive production costs.

"The absence of a set of criteria permitted the granting of sponsorships for purposes unrelated to national unity considerations or increased visibility in Canada of the federal presence," said Gomery's report.

One unrelated activity was the purchase of Grand Prix tickets in 1998 through a sponsorship contract.

Guidelines for the program introduced in 2001 could have prevented the "mismanagement and abuses" that happened earlier in the program, wrote Gomery.

The Quebec Liberal party directly profited from program mismanagement. Five companies received many exclusive contracts with the federal government in return for their contributions to the Liberal Party of Canada.

Of the advertising companies—Groupaction, Lafleur, Gosselin, Everest, and Coffin—Gosselin got fewer sponsorship contracts after they stopped contributing to the Liberal party.

Gomery's report said that Paul Martin was not responsible for the activities that happened while he was finance minister. But the Prime Minister's Office under Chrétien was found to be involved in the program, and

responsible for mismanagement.

Gomery's report drew on testimony from 172 witnesses, collected during the commission hearings in Montreal, from September 7, 2004, until June 17, 2005.

After the report was released, Gilles Duceppe said that he was ready for an election "right now."

Conservative leader Stephen Harper was equally willing to go to the polls. But he said they need a clear three-party opposition to the government in order to defeat the liberals.

Paul Martin accepted the findings of the report and immediately referred it to the RCMP to look for illegal activities. Martin said the Liberal party will pay back \$1.14 million to the government, and he has banned 10 people from membership in the party because of their involvement in the program.

Scott Brison, Public Works Minister, said in question period that Paul Martin is the only man who can fix the job and make sure that this will truly never happen again.

Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said in a press conference late in the evening that he considers Gomery's report biased, and that he will take action in federal court.

Gomery's report found that the prime minister was responsible for the program mismanagement by not being more diligent.

Chrétien said the sponsorship program was "one small program in a very large government."

Ben West on the Ballot

Capilano student and film director running for Vancouver Mayor

Nicole Burton, News Editor



Someone like Ben West usually doesn't have his face framed up next to grinning political heavyweights like Sam Sullivan and Jim Green on the mantel of candidates for mayoral elections. While some of the stark contrast is due to different levels of experience and contrasting campaigns—West is pushing for community sustainability, improved public transportation, and the environment—and he's under 30. At least he says he is.

True: Vancouver mayoral candidates have a fair share of "fringe" runners. Some promise us there will be time to "laugh and cry together," while others claim they are on a mission from God to save the city.

But as a student and a longtime organizer with the Capilano Students Union, West thinks that the experience he has gained to date on the political stage, for better or for worse, has led him to make his decision to run on the ballot this year.

The key points in his campaign (in turn, the points of contention between West and his more serious opposition) have received both media attention and a strong following among younger voters. The more creative aspects of his campaign have also gained an audience with those who want to see change through art and culture—and this thing Ben West refers to as "fun."

This week, West will be releasing a film about the elections and his own Work Less Party's (WLP) participation, called *Alarm Clocks Kill Dreams*. The Other Press interviewed West to give our readers the skinny on the film, as well as to provide insight into elections, politics,

and getting young people more involved.

THE OTHER PRESS: It's not everyday that students in Vancouver (or anywhere) can find one of our own running for mayor. In what ways have being a student, a young person, and a student organizer with the Capilano Students' Union (CSU) influenced your approach to running for mayor?

WEST: Working in a student union for the last few years and inside the Canadian Federation of Students provincially and nationally, I have learned a lot. I learned about the realities of how politics work and how it doesn't work. These experiences lead me to want to take an outside-of-the-box approach to politics. Large established political parties, like any branded institutional structure, are too focused on public relations and not enough on the true needs of communities. I have watched as funding for social services have been stripped in this province and I have watched as those focused on addressing this have sacrificed their own morals in order to provide a unified message in "solidarity." What a functioning democratic structure needs is openness and transparency and a space for true debate and dialogue.

The CSU has provided me with a lot of opportunity to experiment with different democratic structures and I feel like this hands-on experience, as well as my less positive experiences within other larger structures, has been an invaluable learning experience.

OP: What parts of your platform are unique to your campaign? What ways have you thought of solving the problems that people in Vancouver experience?

WEST: The Work Less Party wants to provide people with more time to participate in democracy, go to school, develop local arts and culture, and generally enjoy their lives. We see two potential directions we could move in. One is blindly continuing to grow our economy and our communities in an un-sustainable fashion. The other option is smart growth, less work time, and a better designed, finely tuned economy based inside of a living ecosystem paradigm.

OP: For the film you directed, *Alarm Clocks Kill Dreams*—what is the premise of this film and how does it relate to Vancouver's upcoming elections?

WEST: *Alarm Clocks Kill Dreams* follows the candidates for the Work Less Party (WLP) around to all candidates' debates, media stunts, and crazy fundraising parties. It features naked painted people, great local music from CR Avery, Third Eye Tribe, and others, as well as some ideas that don't usually make their way into the political debate. The sub plot is my girl friend and I arguing about whether I should run as a candidate for a fringe party. People can watch the trailer on the WLP website or they can come check out the world premier at the Van East Cinema (Commercial Drive and 7th Avenue, East Vancouver) at 8pm on Thursday,

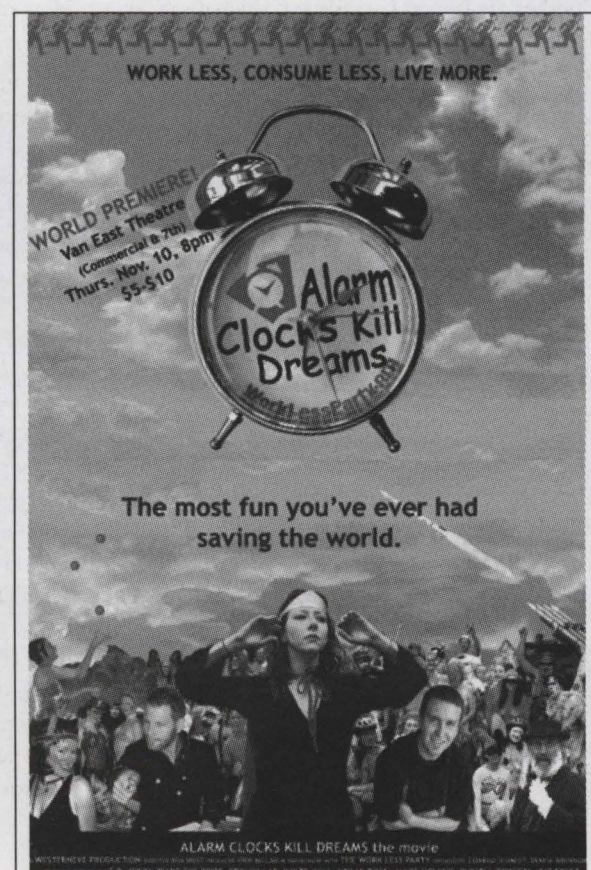
November 10. It should be a fun night. There will be a question and answer period with me and others from the party. It will be followed up by an after hours party. The screening will also feature some appearances by other local political candidates and activist groups, and some surprise "guerilla theatre" as well.

OP: In elections, young people generally do not turn out in high numbers, from student union elections on up. Why do you think this is, and what are some solutions to encouraging higher participation of young people in politics?

WEST: Participation is so important. Turnout is bad, I think, because people don't have faith in the system and they don't have the time to participate. I think it is the most important thing you can do to get involved in local decision-making, even if it's in a limited capacity. You can have a big impact with a little effort. The political struggles at your school are heated and have a significant impact on your life and the lives of other students. I like to start out by trying to lead by example. When good stuff starts happening, people have an interest in getting involved. Get involved in the Douglas Students Union—make it what you want it to be. Nothing makes people want to get involved more than a belief that it will be worthwhile and rewarding. My experience has been that...this participation in decision-making works towards making things better.

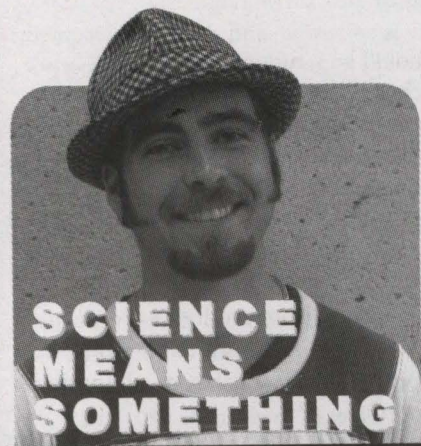
Alarm Clocks Kill Dreams will be opening at Van East Cinema on November 10, 8pm. Tickets are \$5-10, sliding scale.

Check out more on West's platform at the Work Less Party's website: www.worklessparty.org



Selective Mad Hatters

Selective mass murder the answer to global warming



Donald Kawasaki,
Donald Kawasaki
Foundation

Haven't you ever wanted to murder someone and get away with it? I remember as a young child, so in love with Canada, asking my parents if it would be okay to kill our neighbour because I saw him dumping anti-freeze in an empty lot, using an aerosol tire cleaner, and smoking cigarettes—unfiltered. "Son," my father said, "sometimes you've just got to let assholes be assholes."

New research at the Kawasaki Corporation now proves that my father, the fucking liar, is in fact wrong. In a study conducted over the past 10 years, we have scientifically proven that the systematic murder of jerks and undesirables is actually beneficial to the environment.

"In areas of high death density and, on occasion, genocide, the grounds in which the bodies are buried have shown dramatically higher rates of nutrient rich soil," the Diagnostic Inventory of Environmental Benefits of Uniform and Selected Heart Stoppages (DIEBUSHS) said. "Furthermore, the reduction in carbon dioxide production eases the burden on foliage and the ozone layer."

Isn't that exciting? The implications cut across all aspects of life—from chronic polluters in industry to bad economic policy makers, we now have full justification to live out my childhood dream and embark on a murderous rampage.

I love my country, but Canada's reputation as a world leader in sound environmental policies is somewhat misleading. There are still countless industries dumping benzene and chlorine into Ontario's great lakes, companies slashing the last North American rain forests of British Columbia, and people who just smell really bad in Quebec. Waiting for legislation to catch up to science is as frustrating to watch as the evolution of those stupid fuzzy boots. However, we can do something about this by killing the worst

offenders and still benefit the environment.

If you look to world leaders in this Moral Crusade of Mulching—countries like Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda—we can tangibly correlate the high murder rates and mass graves to what has become lush greenery and a more vibrant and robust ecological system. Cambodia, the first nation to fully grasp the benefits of such an environmental policy, didn't have a Pol Pot to piss in before their human fertilizer campaign began. Now, it is a tourist hotbed and boasts some of the healthiest species in Asia. Bosnia's landscape now resembles the rolling hills and clear springs of the Scottish glens—which only came about because of Britain's medieval desire to unite a kingdom through sensible environmental planning and mass murder. Even Rwanda, who implemented the MCM theory less than a decade ago, is beginning to explode with economic prosperity through environmental policy, attracting major Hollywood productions and diplomatic dignitaries from around the world.

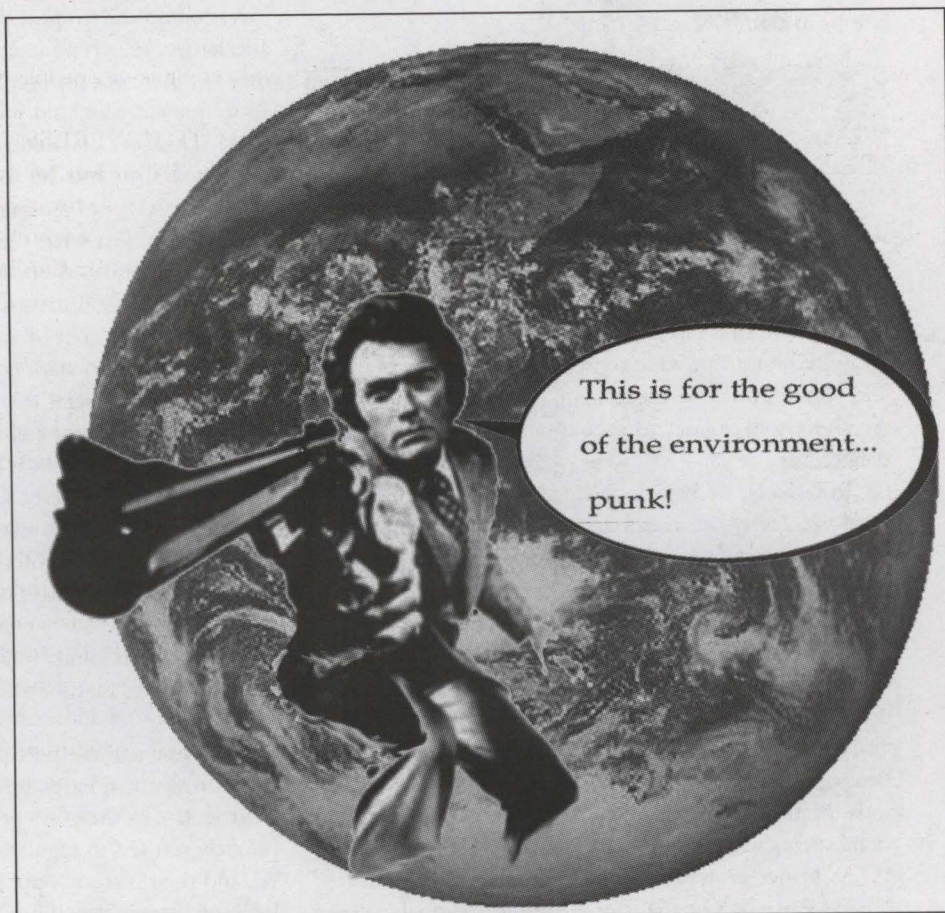
It is easy to see that the Sudanese people, or at least those who remain, will be living a life of Eden-esque ease in a few short years, once the nutrient rich soil begins to teem with life.

The Kawasaki Corporation doesn't necessarily promote the mass genocide of all people's, though we understand the lack of internal controls in the nations cited. Which is why, with an abundance of moral indiscretion in the First world nations, I believe Canada can once again become a world leader in positive environmental policies by singling out the major polluters for mass execution.

There are countless Petro-Can executives who would do better on their promises of cleaner burning fuels by simply pushing up daisies rather than gushing up oil. Every year, Tim Horton's produces enough garbage to build a ladder to Heaven—eight times over. As such, the Toronto Maple Leafs should be buried in the Clayoquot Sound area, where clear-cutting has left vast strips of loose soil and barren hillside. And Bob Cole should be included in that grave, too.

Everywhere I turn these days, someone isn't doing their part for the environment and it just makes me wish I had a gun. But what can I do? I'm only one man.

It's time Canada got out of the new age and went back to the old days. It's time to legislate the mass murder of environmental enemies. If not in life, than in death they too can do their part.



THURSDAY NIGHT STUDENT NIGHT

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\$1 Shooters
\$12 Pitchers of Canadian!

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WEEKEND DRINK SPECIALS!

The End of Democratic Accountability in Canada



Right Hook

JJ McCullough, OP Columnist

Why do we even have democratically elected governments in the first place? The purpose is supposedly twofold: first, to provide representation for the masses; and second, to allow those same masses a means by which to hold politicians accountable for their deeds in office.

In Canada, we have long since abandoned the first purpose. Today our members of parliament are powerless party pawns who only speak, act, and vote when the leader says it's okay, risking severe career consequences whenever they dare deviate from the party line. This is hardly a new phenomenon, but over the years Canadians have managed to make peace with the "democratic deficit" provided by our parliamentary institutions. Lacking effective representation, we've instead had to rely on the principle of accountability; but in the wake of the Gomery inquiry, that once basic democratic value seems to be going the way of the Dodo as well.

As Justice Gomery's investigation has shown, the Liberal Party of Canada is now an unquestionably corrupt institution. By stealing millions of dollars from taxpayers to finance their own campaigns, they have violated the public trust in the most blatant way imaginable and spat in the face all voters who entrusted them with

their confidence. Yet in the end, the party still got away with it and there will be no accountability for their actions.

Why? The left-wing Ontario media establishment loves to endlessly repeat the mantra that "there's no alternative." Corrupt and incompetent as the Liberals may be, there is supposedly no credible alternative party, so we may as well hold our noses and vote Liberal once more. This sort of circular reasoning provides a convenient security blanket for Liberal voters who can't look themselves in the mirror, but one has to really stop and question just what sort of logic these sweeping statements are based on. An alternative, by definition, is a change. The Conservative Party, or even the NDP, possess a whole host of unique people, principles, and policies that are in stark contrast to those currently offered by the Liberal Party. Ergo, they are an alternative who could create a change.

In reality, of course, a lot of people don't really care one way or another about alternatives, credible or otherwise. On the contrary, it seems most voters in Ontario are petrified with fear of even the slightest change to the political status quo. The supposed un-electability of the Conservative Party continues to be blamed on its "radical policies" and "hidden agenda," or in other words, the fact that they are too different from the Liberals.

Of course, these perceived radical tendencies within the Conservative Party are becoming harder and harder to articulate as the years go on. The party has already publicly refused to regulate abortion in any way if elected, and their historic opposition to gay marriage has become meaningless since legalization has already occurred.

So what's left in the scary column?

Nothing really, but within the Ontario political echo chamber, the press and the public are still free to go

about denouncing the horrible, weird, Western, redneck Conservatives, and the Handmaiden's Tale-esque nightmare they will impose upon Canada if elected. Even if you're not a left-winger (and indeed, many Ontarians aren't), this mythos of fear surrounding the Conservative Party is so strong, and so widely accepted, that it represents the key stumbling block to the party's electoral future in this country. At this point it really matters little what the CPC platform says, since no matter what they do the deep conspiratorial bias against them will always remain.

The Liberals have painted themselves as the only patriotic party, the only party that understands Canada, the only party that can take a hard line against the devil Americans, and the only party that can define the Canadian identity. How are Conservatives supposed to win any election when the terms of debate automatically define them as the party of treason, self-hatred, and evil?

In the end, the Gomery saga seems to have done little more than prove that most Canadian voters are simply irrational. Voters are no longer casting ballots based on any sort of logic about what we should expect from government in terms of accountability, honesty, or fairness, and are instead relying simply on stubborn emotional biases and conspiracy theories.

After this next election—which we can only assume the Liberals will win handily—Canada will have officially crossed the line into one-party state world. The ruling regime will be kept in place solely because the people have been successfully conditioned to the point where the Liberal Party and Canada are regarded as synonymous. Canada will be forever defined as a nation which is fundamentally too weak and immature to sustain even a minor ideological shift in its government without throwing the country's entire national identity into turmoil. We will become a democracy in name only.

Gomery In Da Hizzie

Da bomb drops on Liberals



Left Overs

Iain Reeve, OP Columnist

So after several months of nail biting, chair shifting, and floor crossing, the Canadian government had the bomb of the year dropped on it. With all the hoopla, hesitation, and hate speech going around in the House it was a sure bet that this puppy was going to blow the lid off Ottawa. So did it live up to expectations? Heck no. Wait...what?

Let me be honest with you. I could do what every news publication in Canada has done and fly off the handle with attempts to sensationalize the preliminary

report of Justice Gomery, but there is really nothing earth shattering to report. Most of what was revealed was things we already know. Chrétien may be held responsible as it was on his watch. The current Liberals are essentially uninvolved; of particular note, neither is our PM. Most of those assumed guilty, Gagliano et al, had been declared responsible beforehand. Once again, nothing earth shattering.

What needs to be considered is how the party spin machines are going to work this puppy to their advantage. With that in mind let's glance at each of the parties.

Bloc Quebecois:

They'll use the scandal—and everything else—as a means to criticize federalism, make the government look bad in Quebec, and thus encourage separatism. This should come as no surprise because this is what they do with EVERY ISSUE. Next!

Conservative Party of Canada:

The last time I wrote extensively about the situation in the Canadian parliament, I said that the only way to move forward was to await the final ruling, encourage cooperation, set aside partisan politics, and do what is best for Canadians. I am plainly surprised and, to be

honest, a little hurt that Stephen Harper either didn't read my article or didn't take my sagely advice to heart. As could be easily expected, the Conservatives used the preliminary report to launch all new attacks on the Liberals crying corruption this, illegitimate that.

Hey, I'll be the first one to admit there is severe corruption that took place, but the current members of the party have been almost entirely exonerated. To suggest that there is some innate factor of being a Liberal party member that instills corruption is a little naïve. What causes corruption is greedy, rich, self-centered morons who do not actually care about the noble purpose of the post they take so much as they care about lining their pockets and those of their friends. So before the Conservatives continue with their bi-weekly "bring down the government" campaigns, they should remember that their party is full of these same screw-the-rich/save-the-poor types who would have done exactly the same thing as any Liberal in the same situation. It's the pot and the kettle, my friends.

Liberal Party:

Some papers—and remember how sensational they can be—have said Gomery's preliminary report was

continued on page 10

The Avian Flu and the End of the World

Terry Wuerz, The Manitoban (University of Manitoba)

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Between 1918 and 1919, 60 million people died from the flu. One fifth of the world's population was infected, and some towns were nearly annihilated. More US soldiers died from this epidemic than during World War I. Indeed, the so-called "Spanish flu" is often thought to be one of the reasons leading to the end of the Great War.

Today, history's lesson of the Spanish flu is making media headlines with alarming regularity. This time, the world is closely watching the spread of a new, horrific disease. The Avian flu, as it is called, has affected just over 100 humans and garnered widespread attention from the media due to its perceived potential to become a global pandemic, the proportions of which we have only witnessed once during the last 100 years.

Adding to the credibility of the parallels being drawn between the Spanish flu and the Avian flu, it is believed that the 1918 influenza virus originated from pigs.

It is not difficult to understand why our current level of panic is so high: images of post-pandemic devastation are incredibly vivid, exemplified by such fictional works as the movie *28 Days Later* and the Steven King novel and miniseries *The Stand*.

The idea of such a large-scale event fascinates even as it frightens. Yet, if we are to be seriously stressed out about this possibility, it bears asking: Is the threat to humanity so real? How great is the possibility of a serious human pandemic with this disease?

To understand, we must first know a few things about the flu. This is not an unfamiliar disease: unlike the outbreak of SARS just over two years ago, much is known in the medical community about the influenza virus.

Flu outbreaks occur, predictably, every single year, usually in the winter. It is one of the most common infections known to humankind. The reason our bodies are unable to build up a proper immunity to the virus after having previously been infected is the same reason

that researchers have been unable to come up with a vaccine that would provide good immunity against all strains of influenza: the flu virus is apt to mutate.

Most of the time, the mutations of the virus from year to year are quite predictable if you have a large enough computer. These predictions form the basis for the vaccine, which must be reformulated every year to cover the new versions of the virus that surface.

These mutations are small in nature, but can amount to significant change in the virus over the years, in a meandering sort of way. Thus, this mutation event has been termed genetic drift.

The other way that the influenza virus mutates is entirely unpredictable and more than a little bit speculative. It is called genetic shift: imagine switching your 1986 Toyota Camry from drive to reverse while doing 40 in the McDonald's parking lot. This type of mutation accounts for drastic, sudden mutations in the influenza virus. Genetic shift would explain a strain of virus that was previously only infectious for pigs or chickens becoming a threat to humans.

It is thought that one way this might happen is for influenza viruses that commonly affect two different species to mix, resulting in a new, previously unseen, and drastically different virus. This would be possible if, for example, the feces of infected chickens somehow ended up in the feeding stock of infected pigs.

According to the World Health Organization, in order for a pandemic to occur in humans, the infectious agent in question must be easily transmittable between humans. The current strain of influenza virus wreaking havoc on birds in Southeast Asia and now Eastern Europe (classified H5N1) has not transmitted easily from human to human. And poultry-to-human infections have tended to result from close contact with the birds.

Certainly, this strain of the virus is of significant health concern to anyone spending significant time with chickens and other affected poultry. For the rest of us,

however, the biggest affect it will have on our lives is most likely to be the skyrocketing cost of chicken, as millions are culled in response to confirmed or suspected infection.

The worry that has been expressed, but not explained, so many times in the past few weeks of media frenzy is that genetic shift will cause the H5N1 influenza virus to become communicable between humans. This would be very dangerous, as it has already been demonstrated that the H5N1 strain is very dangerous to humans when they are infected. Among confirmed human cases, over 50 percent have been fatal.

Yet before we start writing out our last words and throwing out phone bills, it is worth noting a few things.

First, the type of mutation being considered here, while theoretically possible, nearly reaches science-fictional improbability. Historical examples of such a mutation are very rare.

Furthermore, even if the virus undergoes such an uncommon mutation and becomes infectious between humans, there is no reason to believe that it will demonstrate the same level of infectivity seen between chickens; that is mere speculation.

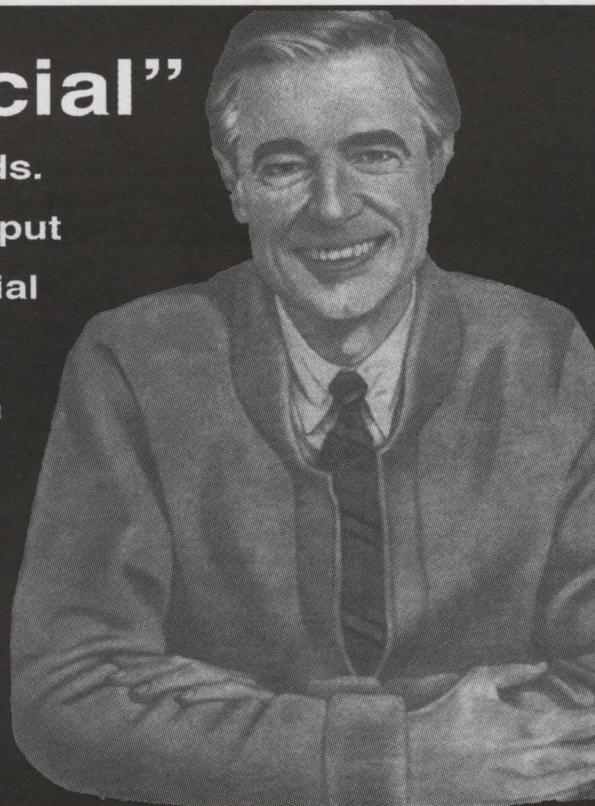
Lastly, due to the advent of effective antiretroviral drugs against influenza, even a worst case scenario of the sort seen in 1918 would not be as devastating to the world today.

Sure, the possibility exists of a radical gene shift occurring in the H5N1 influenza virus that drastically increases its human-to-human transmissibility but maintains its virulence and human mortality potential theoretically.

But perhaps our resources would be better spent safeguarding the human race against devastating events already taking place. Before we reach full panic over bird flu, let's deal with such catastrophic issues as poverty, HIV/AIDS, or starvation, to name just a few.

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My Grandfather the Hero

Making Remembrance Day mean something

Brandon Ferguson, Opinions Editor



It was the grade 11 assembly that first got me. As per annual tradition, grainy black and white footage of war heroes spilling over bunkers and killing other soldiers was shown, prayers were hummed, songs were sung, and tragically interpretive dance was had. Yet another Remembrance Day assembly where we wasted a half-day sitting cross-legged in the gym for a memorial that seemed more intended for pot smoking than to be

thought provoking. Beyond the poppies, moment of silence, and afternoon off, was there any real point to this?

Somewhere between the black and white film images and the hairy armpits of a criminally bad dance troupe, it hit me: if not for my grandfather's roll-of-the-dice wartime life, I wouldn't be here.

Beyond the burning question of whether Erika from chemistry class liked me or like-liked me, this was the first truly unselfish and life adjusting question I'd asked myself: how could I, or my family, be here today if it weren't for my grandfather's good fortune to survive WWII?

Me. My sister. My mother. My uncle. My parents' marriage. My grandparents' happiness and life together. All of it hung on this meager thread of happenstance that single-handedly determined the outcome of three generations of people I love. The immensity of the revelation hit me like the metaphorical cannons the interpretive dancers commanded in the air with their fists—Bang! Crash! Boom!

Bang: The sound of my grandfather's RAF fighter plane being hit by enemy fire over Egypt, his plane losing altitude and hope while a new bride waits obliviously yet dutifully at home, a million miles away, knitting baby booties in a Dawson Creek rocking chair.

Crash: The sound of my grandfather's impact upon meeting the desert floor, forever retarding his hopes of a life without pain yet never hindering his lifelong passion of lowering his golf handicap; his whole world literally crashing down and being put back together in an Italian prisoner of war camp.

Boom: The sound of German soldiers firing upon

my grandfather and the dozens of other POWs who escaped from that prison during the confusion that ensued after the Italian surrender; half of those who attempted the escape were killed as they ran away as fast as their feet could carry them, fleeing up the shoelaces of a most treacherous boot and into an enemy dragnet.

In short—because that's all I ever got from a stoic man who refused to discuss the deaths of brave men, as is the noble wont of that generation—my grandfather was shot down, imprisoned, orchestrated a prison break, lost half his men, survived in Italian farmhouses with the minimal Italian he'd learned in prison, and spent a year slowly traipsing through enemy territory with a screwed up back to get back to allied forces and, ultimately, the woman he loved.

On a rainy November day in grade 11, with gay dance and reasons to skip school abound, it hit me like a bunker buster bomb: I wasn't lucky to be alive; I was obscenely lucky to be born.

My grandfather's tale is remarkable to me but hardly uncommon—everyone who enlisted for the Great Wars has similar tales of heroism and loss. Perhaps that's why he shared it so rarely.

Papa Ray passed away five years ago now, and with him went his stories. He and 1.1 million Canadians willingly risked their lives—and those of every unborn generation to follow—to save the world from imperial rule and ideological tyranny. I can't even begin to grasp the noble madness that compels one to risk it all for countless unknown others, but I have been given a lifetime to think it over.

For all those who have served: thank you.

Left Overs continued: from page 8

the Liberal's worst nightmare. How so? No new damning evidence came out; all their current bigwigs are clean; Pauly gets off Scot-free; sounds good to me.

And it is. The Liberals have once again been flirting with majority government numbers in the polls. As such, it would almost be worthwhile for them to allow a winter election, as they would almost certainly take it. Why aren't they? They want to maintain the image that they are doing what is best for Canada. Spin? Yes. Are they corrupt? Probably. Do they deserve another term? I don't think so. But, as most Canadians realise, are they better than the Conservatives? Oh my yes.

New Democratic Party:

Captain hardball himself, Jack Layton, has continued to use the minority situation to his advantage. By propping up the Liberal government he has made a few friends on the government side of the house and a whole butt-load of enemies on the opposition side.

As opposition days approach, and the possibility of triggering an Xmas election looms, Jack has said he needs time to consider the NDP position. He has, however, given the Liberals a chance to buy the NDP's support by looking at issues like the environment, health care, pensions, and—gasp—ethics! That will be a hard pill to swallow, but good on Dr. Layton for filling out that prescription. Like them or not, the NDP is making serious waves in parliament and may be the only party really pushing for issues that matter to Canadians right now.

Editorial Cartoon by JJ MC Cullough

IRANIAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL



Broken Social SWEET

Kevin Lalonde, OP Contributor



People seem to love Canadian music. Anyone who reads *Pitchfork* knows it. It's as if Canada is the new Britain or something. And if anyone is the poster child for this renaissance of Canadian rock glory, surely it is Broken Social Scene (BSS).

With the release of their second full-length, *You Forgot it in People*, the BSS collective suddenly became

the go-to band for indie boys trying to convert their silly but attractive Top 40 girlfriends to the genre. Ok, I've just been informed that it wasn't BSS that was the conversion band for indie kids, but Metric, who recently rocked the Commodore again a week ago. But whatever, because Metric frontwoman Emily Haines is totally a BSS sorta-member and guest star, so suck it. Besides, they were MY BAND FIRST!

Anyway, Broken Social Scene recently released their third LP, a self-titled effort that emits all the same vibrant, mellow energy that made *You Forgot it in People* and *Feel Good Lost* such landmarks for the Canadian indie-rock industry. Contributors on *Broken Social Scene* include Leslie Feist, Emily Haines, Andrew Whiteman (the BSSer whose side-project Apostle of Hustle went on to garner much acclaim with his 2004 LP *Folkloric Feel*), as well as members of Stars, the Dears, Do Make Say Think, and buttloads of others. I have neither the patience nor the space to delve into the connections and relationships that make up the BSS collective, so you'll have to look it up. That's why they call it a collective.

So does *Broken Social Scene* measure up to the predecessors that brought the collective the fame and glory that so many pop-dorks feel they rightly deserve? You bet it does! On *Feel Good Lost*, BSS had barely started to grow into themselves, almost reaching around in the dark for a handle on what they were trying to sound

like. *You Forgot it in People* was more confident-rolling, precise sounds that were more defined, punctuating every guitar riff neatly and perfectly. *Broken Social Scene* fits somewhere in the middle, completely comfortable in the clashing, droning waves of song after song. All of it melts into one transcendent, cohesive piece of alt-rock.

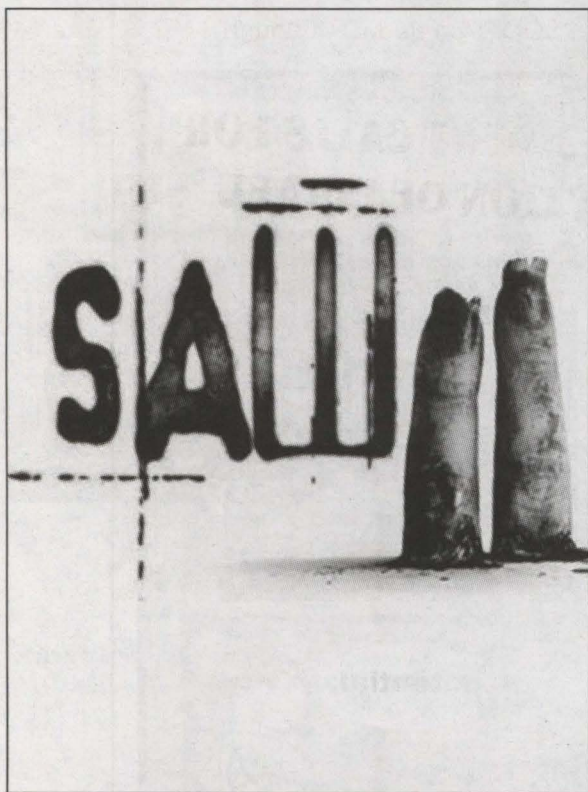
But that's not to say that the new album doesn't have singularly memorable tracks. The high energy and big, but somehow quiet vocals of "Ibi Dreams of Pavement (A Better Day)" is actually quite reminiscent of, oddly enough, Pavement, and is hard to miss when you first throw the album in your stereo. "Swimmers" sounds almost too much like a more mature, relaxed shakeup of YFIIP's "Pacific Theme," somehow even more toe-tappingly delicious than anything before it with its plucky guitars and tranquil melody. It's like Stars meets Metric meets every other band that's ever been associated with Broken Social Scene before.

And now that you know, you can zoom over to Scratch Records right now to go get your tickets for Broken Social Scene at the Commodore this Sunday night. Even if you can only get into the all ages show it'll be well worth it.

So the question is, does *Broken Social Scene* sound like every other BSS release to date? Sure does. Is that a bad thing? Nope, because it totally rocks.

Saw II

Brady Ehler, Despiser of Popular Fiction



Writer/Director of the original *Saw*, James Wan, has passed the baton to Darren Lyn Bousman, who wrote and directed *Saw II*...and I'm still wondering why. The first instalment of the series wasn't great, but at least it starred Cary Elwes (*Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *Robin Hood*:

Men in Tights), and exhibited a fresh take on the horror genre. *Saw II* has neither Cary Elwes, nor a fresh take on the horror genre—unless you consider ninety minutes of mindless gratuity “fresh.”

Before I really dig into this meaningless pile-of-shit disguised as a movie, let me just say this: there is no sawing in this movie, nor do saws have any significance to the film. There was only one saw in the movie, and it wasn't even a new saw, it was the same old rusty hacksaw from the first film. Now that the saws are out of the way, let's talk about some of the characters: there is a pissed-off cop, a cold, intelligent, psychopathic serial killer, a misunderstood teenaged beau—you know what, I'm not going to talk about the characters, because there is nothing to talk about. They are more cliché than the use of the word “baby” in the chorus of a pop song, and flatter than a pancake on Jupiter.

This movie lacks the following basic qualities essential to a decent film: character development, cohesion with reality, originality, artistic integrity, acting, plot, and theme. Here are some of the things *Saw II* did have: loud noises, flashing lights, ADD frame-changes, meaningless violence, lots of screaming, and unpredictable (but useless) plot twists.

If you have nothing to do, and want to waste your money on an un-scary piece of shit with no redeeming qualities whatsoever, then I suggest you rent *The Relic*. Whatever you do, don't go see this movie unless you are young, stupid, and have terrible taste in movies, or are extremely masochistic.

Terry Pratchett-Thud

Sajia Kabir, OP Contributor

I adore Terry Pratchett. His Discworld series of comic fantasies combine dexterous wordplay, intricate plotting, and keen insight into character and society. So why has rereading *Thud!* been such a slog for me?

We're back with an old character, Sam Vimes, the commander of the Ankh-Morpork City Watch. He's trying to keep the peace between dwarfs and trolls wound-up by the upcoming anniversary of the Battle of Koom Valley, integrate a vampire policewoman into his force, and at the end of the day, read, *Where's My Cow?* (the name, incidentally, of a new picture book by Pratchett) to his little boy.

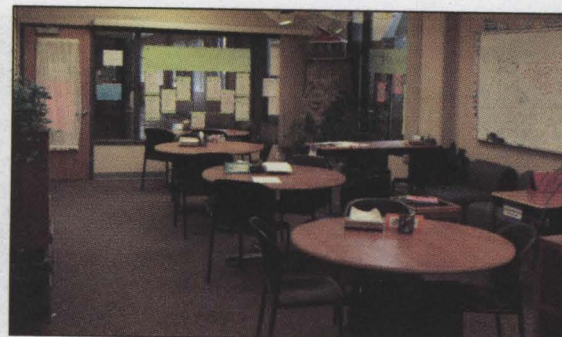
Thud! is full of very good bits of comic invention, from the *Sex and the City* spoof to the *Da Vinci Code* spoof. Also, on a more serious note, there is a board game of *Thud!* where you have to play as a dwarf once and as a troll once. It says much for Pratchett's talents as a storyteller that—once again—this reader was so carried away by the tale's momentum that she overlooked crucial little details important to the story's structure. Yet the resolution of the political conflict of the plot—influenced by, if not an allegory on, real-world events—seems too pat, at least by Pratchett's standards. I mean, so it was all a two-thousand-years-old misunderstanding (one admittedly abetted by malice on both sides)?

Still, I don't regret buying this book. A less-good Pratchett is better than most other fantasy authors' best books. Which is all the more reason we expect so much from him.

Coquitlam Co

By Brady Ehler, Your OP Coquitlam Rep.

Greetings from Coquitlam! It has spontaneously occurred to me that many of the students who go to the New Westminster campus may have never taken a course at, or m
As you can see, it is dark, foreboding, and there are lots of holes in the ground. Usually it looks nicer, honest! The holes will be gone in a week or two, I imagine...the gloom

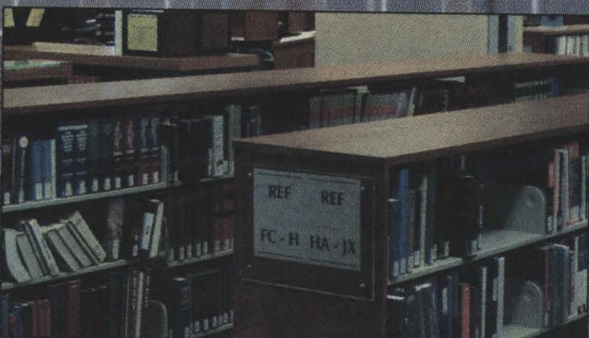
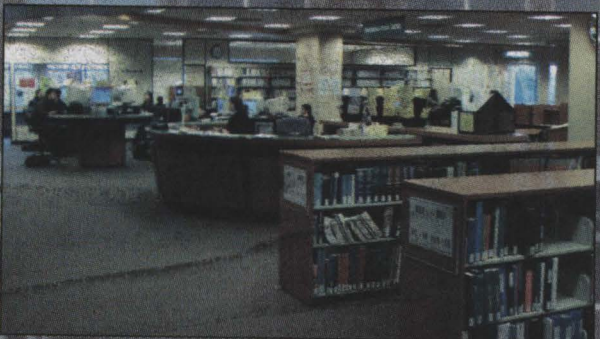


Here are a couple shots of the front walkway and the smoking pit next to it. See, David Lam isn't that bad after all! Notice the artistic layout and well-kept vegetation? Yeah, the Coquitlam campus may be small, but its actually quite nice looking, its got roundness and curves, unlike the boxy, cubic, un-round New West Campus. As you can see, there is also a fair amount of outdoor parking, which is packed to the gills (naturally). There is also indoor parking under the school.

This is the Learning Centre and again, its not as big as the one in New Westminster, but the people that work here are really nice. They seem to have a curious obsession for the sea and fish, but they are good people, just look at them smiling! I think they are happy because they don't have as much work to do as the people at the New West Learning Centre. I suggest you pay them a visit, and ask them grammar questions.



This is the concourse. It's small, but as you can see there are many cushy grey chairs, which are perfect for eating in, studying in, and chatting with friends in. Yes, the cushy grey chairs are massively superior to the cold concrete steps of the New West campus. Usually, the cushy grey chairs are spread throughout the floor, but today there were information tables set up. Yeah, we got those. We got info tables set up all the time, New West, how do you like that?



Here is the library. Its full of computers, books, and angry librarians that get upset when gangly school journalists walk in willy-nilly and start taking photos. It's not as big as the library in New West, but it is quite decent. Computers and study-cubicles dominate the main level. All the books are downstairs, which has a great view, and is one of the best places to study in the Coquitlam Campus.



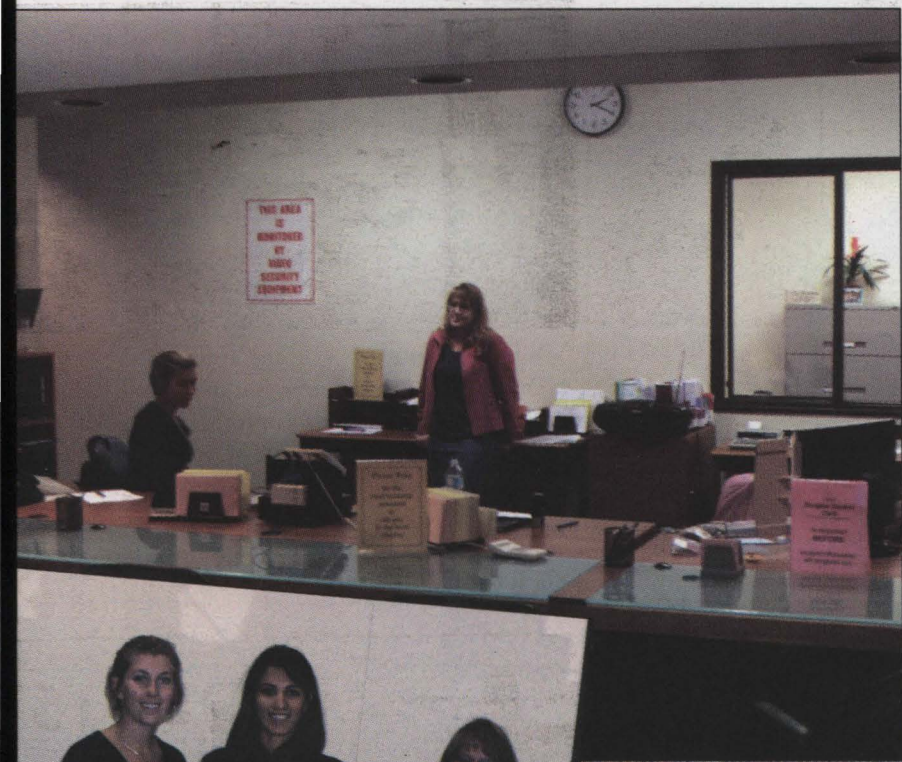
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Unfortunately, there isn't much to choose from in the Coquitlam cafeteria; its either sandwiches or burgers. There are all sorts of bakery products and things too. I find the lack of delicious stir-fry disturbing (haha). Notice the large amount of space for your eating pleasure? No? Well that's because I didn't take a picture of it, and all the damn high-schoolers who stuck over from the high school to sit there.

mpus Tour

n, the Coquitlam Campus.
longer to clear up.



This is the Registrar's office. It's very handsome, no? The people are helpful and very nice. They even got all together for a photo! Isn't that nice? Anyways, if you've got course questions, this is the place to go.



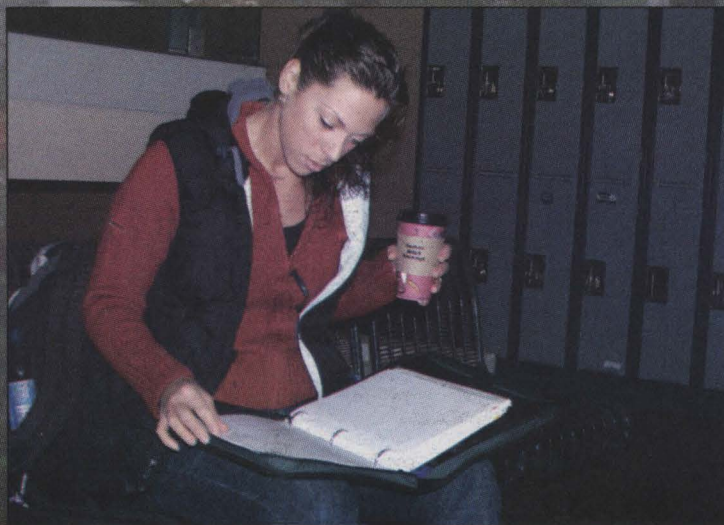
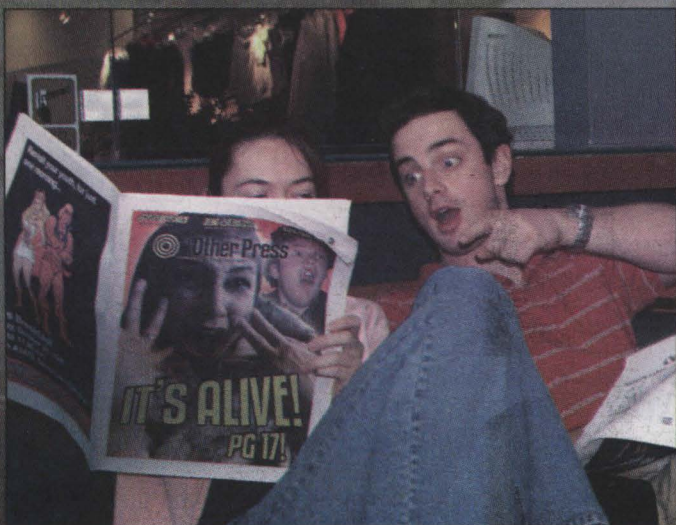
The vision centre looks particularly nice, doesn't it? It's connected to a lab for the optician students. Its weird in there... all off-white and lab-ish. It gives me the creeps. I like the vision centre though; it looks like they might have some pretty nice glasses in there. Anyways, they are open to the public and it's probably cheaper than going to some "professional" optometry place.



This is the worst part of the Coquitlam campus, the walkway to the adjacent high school, which is filled with biblets and emo-kids that come over to OUR cafeteria and eat OUR fries, and steal OUR cotton candy at special events. Seriously though, I don't like high-schoolers. I don't like their two-sizes-too-small-hip-huggers. I don't like their skateboards. I don't like their sideways hats and I don't like their attitudes. Eat at your own damn Cafeteria you Much-Music watching little trend-bots!

Well that concludes our tour! If you haven't been to the Coquitlam campus yet, I suggest you check it out, maybe even take some courses here. It's smaller, but is in many ways more accessible than the New West campus, and it's certainly better looking. Unfortunately, there are a fair amount of high schoolers here from nine to three, but after that the atmosphere is pretty nice!

ts at the Coquitlam campus are very hard
g. They don't have bloodstreams; they
ffeine-streams, which they must maintain
stantly drinking triple espressos. However,
tudents here are taking five, they read
her Press, because they are intelligent
ve refined tastes
u).



**I found it on
teh interweb!**



Iain W. Reeve,
Internet Super-Highway Hitchhiker

This weeks website:

The Perry Bible Fellowship
www.pbfc comics.com/temporary/

Now, I know what you're going to say, "God dammit Reeve, do we really need a link to another stupid web comic?" In most cases, my humble critics and greatest friends, I would agree with you wholeheartedly. While the Internet has indeed allowed us the ability to view the comedic skills of an unparalleled number of artists around the world, it has become increasingly clear to me that the vast majority of them wouldn't know funny if it crawled out of their ass and slapped them upside the head with a comically large cod. Perry Bible Fellowship (PBF) is a massive exception to the rule. It's so good that it nearly makes all the other dumbo web comics out there seem worth while.

If you're anything like me—and I'm more than willing to accept that most of you are certainly not—then you enjoy a good dark laugh. To that end, I must say there are few comic artists who have captured the art of dark, depraved, devilish comedy like Nicholas Gurewitch, the mad genius behind this site. In the expanded PBF archive, you will find comics dealing with everything from the mating rituals of your common two-by-four, to the intergalactic graffiti designs of twisted space aliens, to assertive fathering on a magic carpet. None of this description can really scratch the surface though.

I recommend taking my advice, chuckling at the comic shown below, and checking out Nick's site at www.pbfc comics.com/temporary/, or simply Google "Perry Bible Fellowship." Spend some time, browse the archives, and pee your pants. You will not be disappointed.

Send your submissions for "I Saw In On The Interweb" to aeditor@gmail.com

The Perry Bible Fellowship debuts this week in the comic section on pg 18

Les Belles Soeurs

Natalia Hautala, OP Contributor



What *Les Belles Soeurs*, written by Michel Tremblay and directed by Johnna Wright, accomplished was this: I laughed till the very end when a rousing rendition of *O Canada*, replete with household goods and raised eyebrows, finished off the play. I continued laughing all the way down the stairs. Laughing at the absurdity of greed and desire, and then at myself for laughing in very public places with no apparent catalyst to hide behind.

Strong performances by the Douglas College theatre department served to bring to light and life all the tragedy and triumph of being a woman in 1965. Beholden to your husband, tied to your family. That a woman especially 40-years ago, perhaps less so now, is never just a woman, she is a wife, a mother, a cook, a broom, and a dustpan. She's a foundation into which the family pours itself, chains itself,

and when all else fails, falls upon.

The play centres on a woman who, through a stroke of good luck, wins a million stamps which are redeemable for all sorts of household goods and other odds and ends. She asks her neighbours and friends to come over and help her stick the yet unused stamps into books, too self absorbed to realize that she was inadvertently rubbing their noses in her new (and rather undeserved) good fortune. The comic disaster that unfolds leaves no one untouched and in the dying verses of *Oh Canada*, it can be said that this rotten life we are all condemned to lead is at best funny and at worst hilarious.

The recurring chorus of "this rotten life" is echoed by the different women. Their different stories illustrate their frustration at a world they are convinced is conspiring to keep them overworked and undervalued.

The play does well to illustrate the disparity between what we say, what we want others to hear, and what our actions speak of us. In a world that seems to conspire to keep you in your place, it is sometimes a welcome interlude to be reminded that the crosses we bear are ones that we all share.

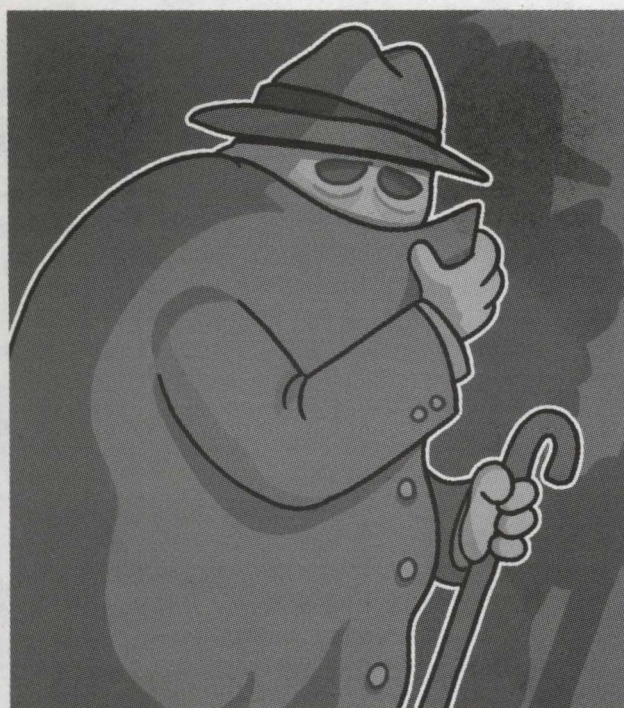
GO SEE THIS PLAY. Not just to support the host of talented folks in the theatre department who are responsible for executing such a great performance, but because theatre done well serves to illustrate what it is to be human.

November 4-12 @ Douglas College.

The Elephant Man

Pacific Theatre till November 12

Iain W. Reeve, A&E Editor



To anyone out there that has never visited this tiny little theatre-venue, a short walk from the more prominent Stanley Theatre near Granville and 12 Street, I recommend you check it out. A small theatre with a modified in-the-round style, the audience split in half on either side of a rectangular stage, it is a very lively and intimate venue for all manner of theatre. I was dazzled when I saw *Shadowlands* there last season, and was equally delighted with this season's *Elephant Man*.

The play tells an adaptation of the true story of Joseph

Merrick, a man born with hideous deformities who rose from his freak show roots to become an object of fascination for upper-class London society. The cast was very busy, most (except the leads) played multiple parts, but managed to handle the play very well. Every member of the low cast, from the sideshow freaks to the hospital staff, played well to audience approval.

The high cast was equally adept. Of particular note was the soft-spoken grace with which Damon Calderwood handled the main character. His passive nature and relative confusion with his situation was perfectly stated.

The set design was simple but effective. When so many locations are necessary, simplicity is often the best solution. While Calderwood did not wear make up as Merrick, when he was introduced, pictures of Merrick were projected onto sheets pulled down from the ceiling. This provided both an interesting visual effect, and made the suspension of disbelief that a hobbling actor was actually the Elephant Man.

The double-sided audience was well exploited. While many plays tend to look two dimensional—with the actors eternally facing the audience—this play was more fluid and realistic. Most of the music—circus medleys on accordion and ramshackle percussion—was played live, adding a nice touch.

The story's themes, of beauty, suffering, and deceit, are all funneled through the main character. While this proves powerful throughout the play—Merrick is an amazing character—it also leaves the rest of the cast, with the exception of Doctor Treves, with little of consequence to do. They are all understood through Merrick, demonstrating that essentially no one was ever genuine to the Elephant Man. A great play by a fantastic cast and crew.

Smith & Reeve at the Movies: Capote

Steph Smith and Ian Reeve (With dictation assistance by Steph Smith II and Steph Smith Bot 5000)



Reeve:

If you've read about, studied, or participated in journalism, you have heard the name Truman Capote. He is one of the fathers of narrative journalism, along with the dearly deceased Hunter S. Thompson. His book, *In Cold Blood*, is still heralded as one of the best works of American literature and journalism ever. This film investigates the making of this piece, but is really a story about the man behind it. The film is actually very ironic. It is a dramatized account of the creation of a dramatized account.

A cast with very few big names turns in one of the best ensemble performances I've seen in some time. There is no weak link in this cast. The cinematography is wonderful. The series of wide-angle establishing shots are perfect mood setters and the director always seems to know where to place the camera during tense moments.

Capote is the film's focus, in spite of many scene-stealers by Clifton Collins Jr., who plays one of the criminals Capote investigates. In Capote, the audience finds a true love/hate character. Devoid of any actual sincerity, concern, or compassion for anything but his own passion, Capote is even disingenuous in his attempts to be caring. Obsessed with his own pain, his own attributes, and his own place in culture, the audience is unsure of how to react when it is revealed at the end that Capote died alone, of alcoholism complications.

This is a tense, cerebral, and often painful film. A sure-fire candidate for any award ceremony this spring, this is a must see film.

Smith:

It's been a long time since I have seen a film that can exist on its own without big-name Hollywood actors and special effects. The movie was one strong performance after another. It is not often you can go see a movie and really truly believe the character. You often see Mr. Big Name Hollywood Guy as a character in a film, seldom do you see the character separate from the actor. Capote provides just the opposite.

Each character was so fabulously played that you forgot the actor and got into the film on a deeper level. The script was strong. The dialogue was heart wrenching at some times, terrifying at others, and occasionally funny. Shot in Manitoba—but set in Kansas—the barren prairie setting fit perfectly with the feel of the film. The cinematography was simple and effective, setting a slightly aged feel to the movie.

Truman Capote is portrayed as a man who manipulated people to get his books done. He is shown as frequently seeing his own miniscule problems as more important than any catastrophic event that may be happening to those around him. He is shown as having a much distorted sense of reality and doing what he wanted with complete disregard for the world around him.

At times you want to sympathize with him, but most of the time, you just feel sorry for him. If Phillip Seymour Hoffman does not receive recognition for this role, I will eat my hat (if, of course, I were wearing one.) It was one of the most dramatic films I have ever seen. I would go so far as to call it riveting.

What's Going Down



Movies

Jarhead

Directed by Sam Mendes

Six months in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait offers a series of dramatic and traumatic experiences for Marine Anthony "Swoff" Swofford (Gyllenhaal) as he fights in Operation: Desert Storm.

November 4

Zathura

Not starring Robin Williams

Two young brothers are drawn into an intergalactic adventure when their house is magically hurtled through space. Jumanji in spaaaaaaace!

November 11

Sarah Silverman: Jesus is Magic

Starring Sarah Silverman

Narrative digressions on sex, race, politics, and more from comedienne Sarah Silverman. Off-Broadway goes to the big screen.

November 11

Music

Gwar

Commodore Ballroom

Nov. 12 @ 9

Tix \$34 at Ticketmaster and Zulu

Depeche Mode

GM Place

Nov. 15 @ 8

Tix \$59.50–89.50 available at Ticketmaster

Theatre

The Elephant Man

The story of Joseph Merrick, sideshow freak turned toast of London

Pacific Theatre

Till Nov. 12

Tix \$14–28, call 604.731.5518

Little Mercy's First Murder

Film noir musical fantastique

Touchstone Theatre

Nov. 3–12

Tix available at 604.709.9973 or www.touchstonetheatre.com

Alley Cats, The Musical

Campy musical madness starring a guy named Rex Harrington, what a good theatre name

Till Nov. 12

Tix available at Ticketmaster

Campus Events

Douglas College Departments of Theatre and Stagecraft

Present: Les Belles Souers

November 4–12 @ 7:30pm

Talkback performances Nov. 7 @ 1pm and Nov. 8 @ 7:30pm

Matinee performances Nov. 7 @ 1pm and Nov. 12 @ 2pm

Douglas College Departments of Theatre and Stagecraft

Present: Frankenstein

November 12–19 @ 7:30pm

Talkback performances Nov. 14 @ 1pm and Nov. 15 @ 7:30pm

Matinee performance Nov. 19 @ 2pm

The Power of Witches

Debby Reis, The Peak (Simon Fraser University)



BURNABY, BC (CUP)—Back in high school, like many other teenaged girls, I became interested in the occult. Witches in particular held interest for me. But the image of a witch in my head went beyond that of the fairy tale hag.

My witch had a mystical beauty about her, and more importantly, she had power. I didn't quite understand this power, but I knew I wanted it. I learned to read palms and tarot cards and whenever I looked at someone's hand, I felt a little bit of that power when his or her lines and fingertips told me about who they were.

Although reading palms has been reduced to my party trick and a way to flirt with boys, my curiosity about witches and their power lingers. What is it about the idea of a witch that instils awe and fear into little children, caused hundreds to be burned at the stake, and spawned a modern religion?

The witch craze

There are numerous theories to explain why Europe was riddled with witch accusations from the 15th through the 17th centuries. While some theorists believe that the witch hunts were perpetuated by the church to subdue pagan religions and line the church's proverbial pockets with money, others point to the emerging male-dominated profession of doctors, who wanted the people to be dependent on their own services rather than those of mid-wives and herbalists.

Superstition, a reaction to changes brought on by religious reformation, and even a response to the little

ice age that affected crops during the period, have all been used to explain the witch craze.

Don't forget the role of the newly invented printing press either, which made witch-hunting manuals, such as the *Malleus Maleficarum*, readily available. First published in 1486, the *Malleus* was so popular that it went through more than two editions per year in its first 34 years alone.

This book, and others like it, instructed inquisitors on how to spot a witch and on which questions to ask in order to elicit the "right" answers.

Combined with torture—or sometimes merely the threat of torture—people confessed to doing all the things witches were thought to have done and pointed the inquisitors towards new victims. This vicious cycle enabled the witch-hunts to continue for three centuries.

Many witch myths known today stem from the folk and fairy tales we heard as children—many of which grew out of the witch craze superstitions. For instance, the witch in "Hansel and Gretel" eats children—an act witches were regularly accused of.

Besides cannibalism, it was believed that witches used infants' fat as an ingredient in an ointment that was rubbed all over their bodies. This ointment rendered a witch invisible and gave her the ability to fly to secret sabbats where numerous witches would meet.

Once there, Christian children were sacrificed and the coven would feast, drink, and dance. There would be indiscriminate orgies. Incest, gender roles, and other sex norms were disregarded. Witches were thought to have had sex with animals, demons, or even the devil.

It was also believed that initiation ceremonies also involved an oath by the inductee to renounce God and Christ, promising to worship the devil instead. It was the act of renouncing Christ that the ecclesiastics were concerned with. It was heresy and therefore the church had to do something about it.

After abdicating Christianity, the new witch had to kiss the devil's buttocks or anus. The devil then assigned the witch a familiar—a black cat, dog, bat, toad, or other creature usually thought of as loathsome. A witch's familiar fulfilled the roles of companion, assistant in magical practices, and communicator with the otherworld.

In return, the witch had to feed his or her own blood to the familiar from a teat, which could be anywhere on the body. Inquisitors would search for this mark on an accused witch as proof of having made a deal with the devil. Any mark, from a mole to a pimple to a spot insensitive to a pricking pin, would be considered a familiar's teat.

The belief that witches had the power of divination—by means of palm and tea-leaf reading, tarot cards, or noxious brews—was also common, and can be seen in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Here the weird sisters are seen mixing various animal parts in a cauldron, allowing them to call up apparitions, one of which tells Macbeth that "none of woman born / Shall harm [him]." For those who think Shakespeare was too intelligent to believe in the power of witches, it must be remembered that he was writing when King James I was ruling over England—the king who had more witches condemned to death than any other English monarch in history.

While there were many factors that contributed to the witch hunts of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries, a

belief in and a fear of witches' powers helped to propagate the hysteria that caused hundreds of innocents to be tortured to death, hanged, or burned at the stake.

Wicca and the modern witch

Modern witches are the followers of the religion Wicca. The religion's main aspects are spiritual growth, the use of pagan deities, a respect for the environment, and, in many traditions, feminine empowerment.

Wicca is a religion free of dogma and as a result, the number of sects within it are innumerable. While some traditions focus on the female deities, others stress the importance of the deity's duality. Agnostics and atheists have been known to join because they view the religion as symbolic for the changes in the seasons and in life. There are few, if any, taboos and each coven (and each individual) is free to create, modify, or disregard a ritual.

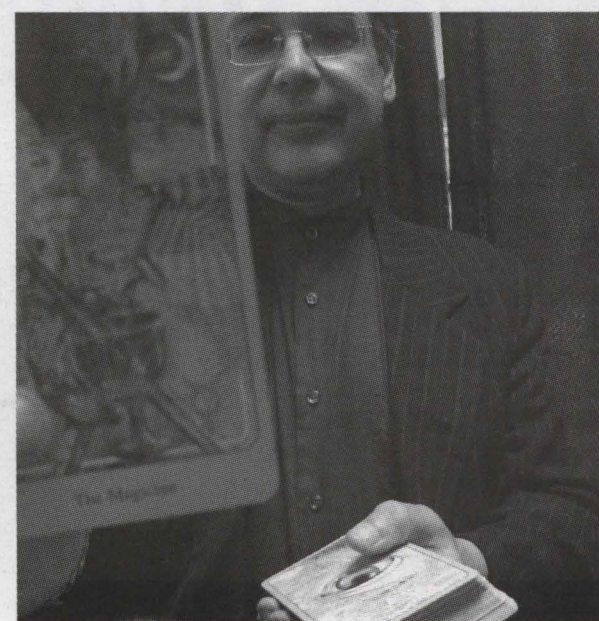
The only tenets in Wicca that seem to have a role in nearly all sects are the "Threefold Law," "The Wiccan Rede," and a use of magick (spelled with a k to distinguish it from performance magic).

Magick is used in rituals to induce a heightened sense of self and of the world, and can be brought on by chants, dreams, hypnosis, meditation, or other methods. This type of magick is typical of many cultures and religions around the world.

Both the "Threefold Law" and "The Wiccan Rede" are similar to the "Golden Rule." The "Threefold Law" is the understanding that what one does is returned to him or her multiplied by three, while the "Rede" states that "if it harms none, do what you will." Both of these tenets provide freedom for Wiccans to do as they wish, with a reminder to consider the effects of their actions.

There are eight major sabbats celebrated in Wicca, the most important of which is Samhain, sometimes referred to as a holiday for the dead, and more commonly known as Halloween. When night falls on October 31, the veil between our world and the spirit world is thinnest and contacting spirits, fairies, gods, and goddesses is easier than at any other time of the year.

Wicca is a religion that gives its followers the freedom to believe what they want, to create rituals, and to follow their own rules—freedoms that allow one to feel that they have power over one's own life and destiny.



Queer Rights in International Spotlight

Chili takes steps to be more queer positive

Irene Caselli, The Link (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—As 10,000 people took the streets of Santiago late last month for the largest gay pride parade in the history of Chile, spirits were high.

Holding rainbow flags and wearing "provocative" clothes, the crowd celebrated the recent victories of the local gay rights movement. While last year was marked by several episodes of sexual discrimination in courts and in schools, 2005 will go down in the books as a positive year for sexual minorities.

In June, the Chamber of Deputies approved an anti-discrimination bill, which penalizes discriminatory acts against sexually identified, ethnic, religious minorities, and people living with a disability. These represent significant steps forward in a heavily Catholic and conservative country, where divorce only became legal last year, abortion is denied even to nine-year-old victims of rape, and homophobic jokes are part of the everyday life.

The education ministry has introduced queer-friendly sex-ed classes in high schools and has warned principals that sexual discrimination will not be tolerated. The defense ministry has enforced special training within the police forces to prevent any acts of violence against sexual minorities and to make sure any abuse is investigated thoroughly.

According to Rolando Jiménez, president of the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation (MOVILH), these measures were a result of the growing mobilization of the Chilean Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer (LGBTQ) community.

MOVILH's strong political lobbying and years of

fight have given them more exposure, and a growing number of people are finding the courage to come out in order to support the movement.

"This year's parade showed that we are accumulating more strength," said Jiménez in a phone interview from Chile.

"Now there are kids here that are willing to expose themselves in order to build a more equal society."

Gay students on the march

Differently from the past, many teenagers attended this year's pride parade, grouped under MOVILH's Gay and Lesbian Student Association. One of them was Danilo Fica, who in September 2004, was expelled from a state-funded school in Santiago with a schoolmate. The boys, 17 and 16 respectively at the time, were openly homosexual and were accused of having had oral sex in one of the school's toilet stalls.

The principal eventually said that the accusations were unfounded and readmitted the students to class, but only after a long mobilization by the school's student community and an appeal by MOVILH.

Schools were not the only setting for sexual discrimination in 2004; courts were high on the list too.

Rights for gay women

A woman last year sued the Chilean state before the Washington, DC-based Inter-American Commission on

Human Rights for violating her rights, after the Supreme Court ruled that she could not retain custody of her three daughters because she was living with her lesbian partner.

The Inter-American Commission's ruling is still pending.

The march ahead

In fact, despite this year's victories, there is still a long way to go in Chile, says Jiménez.

Physical abuse of transvestites by policemen and ultra right-wing groups is relatively common, and often investigations are not carried out properly.

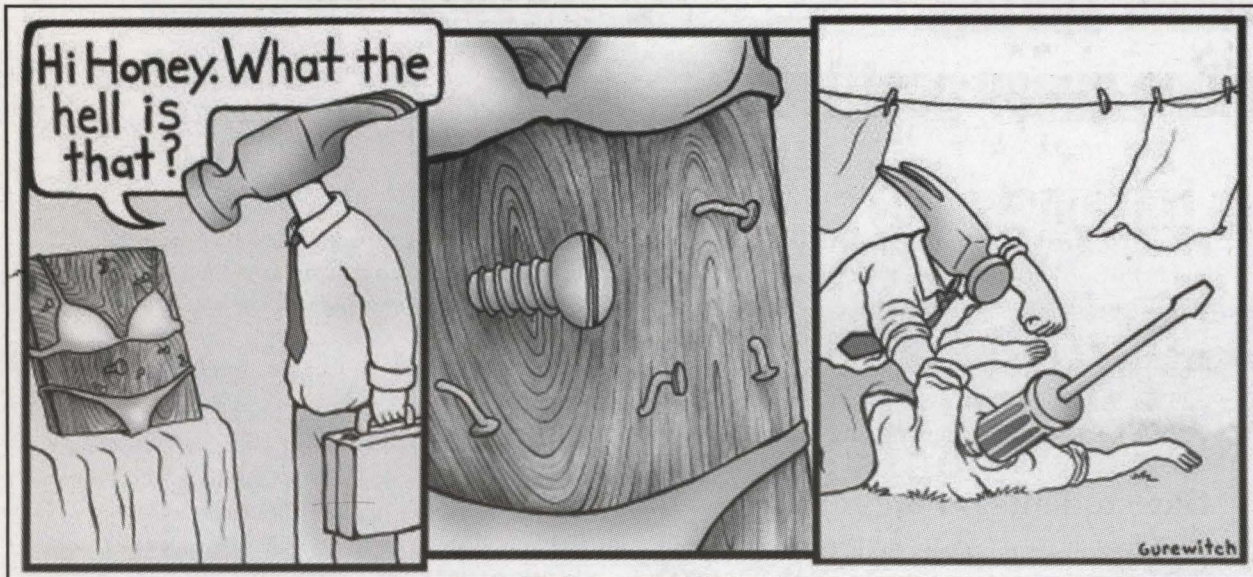
Police use article 373 of the Penal Code to arrest transvestites, whom they consider an offense to public morality.

Jiménez says that MOVILH won't find peace until sexual minorities are granted the same rights as other citizens, article 373 is scrapped from the legislation, and police start defending, rather than attacking them.

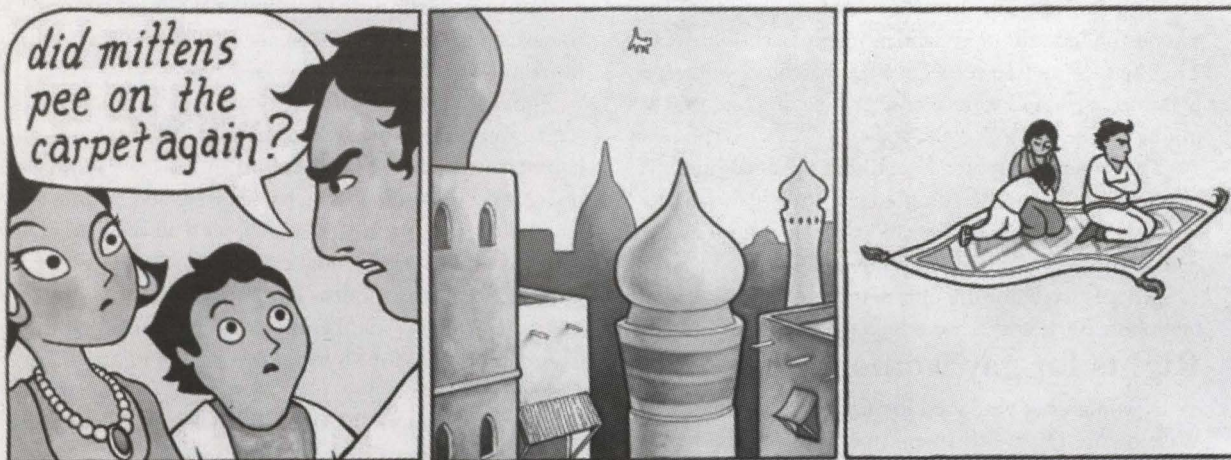
He has also planned meetings with all the candidates for December's presidential elections to lobby for a civil union bill for gay couples. They are not pushing for gay marriage, which would be immediately rejected by the Church, but only for a system that grants rights to gay couples.

"We are asking to be treated equally, nothing more," he says.

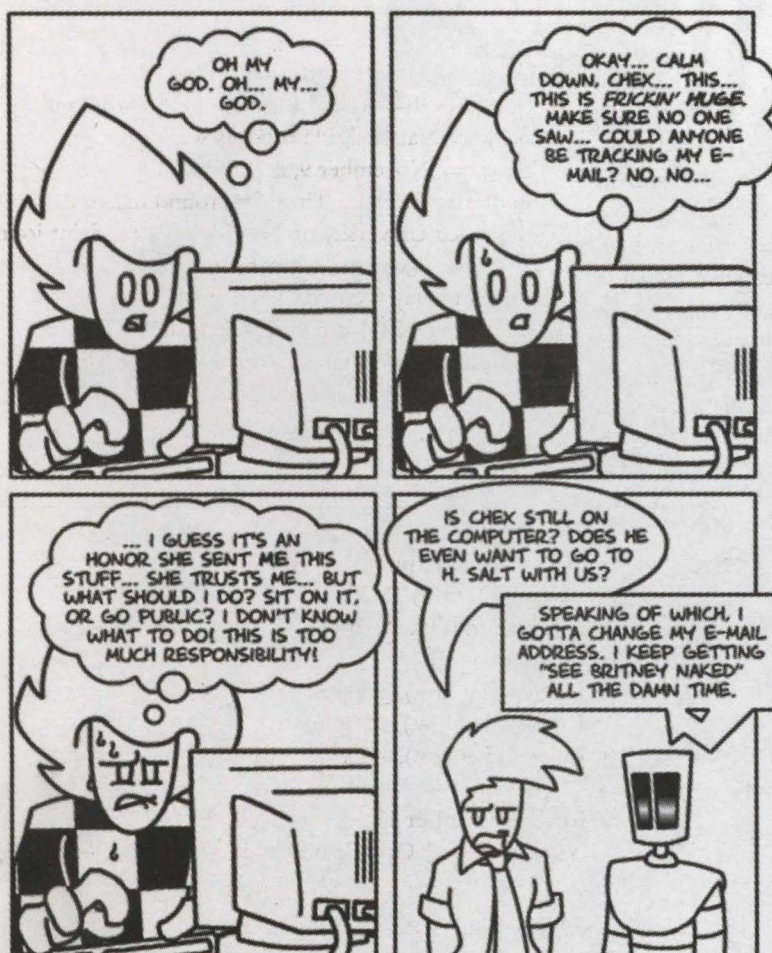




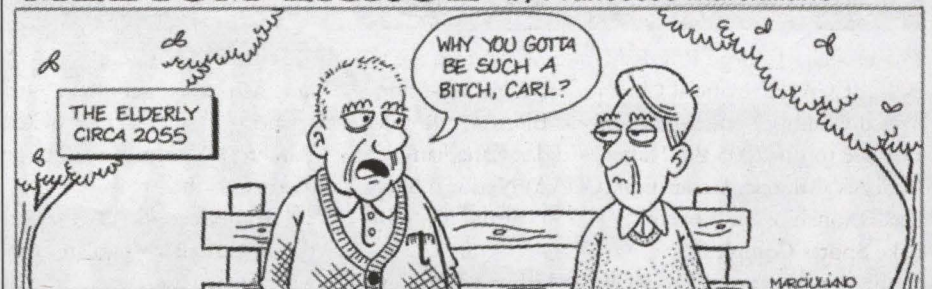
The all new Perry Bible Fellowship Comic will be now be appearing weekly in the Other Press!



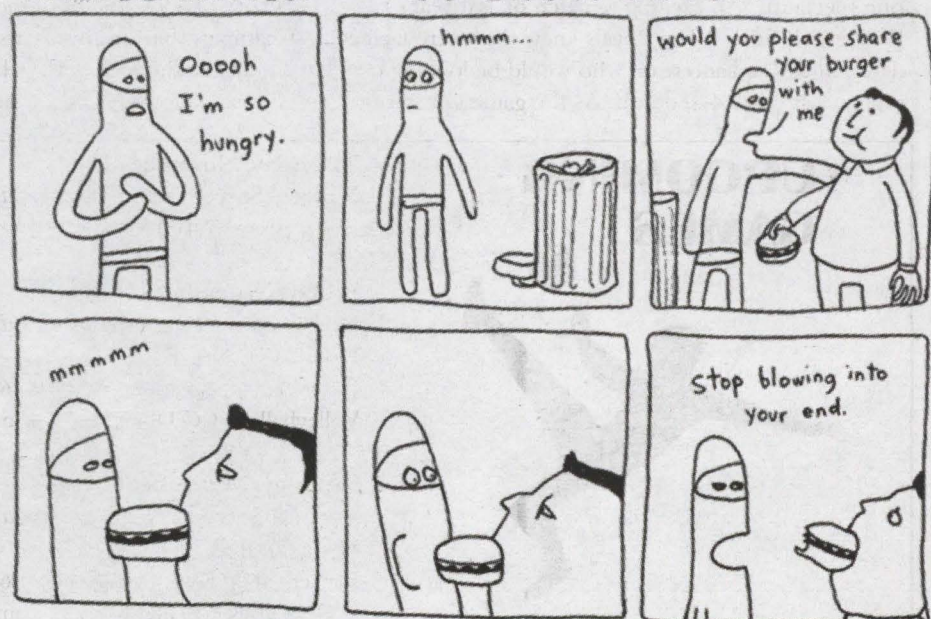
CHECKERBOARD NIGHTMARE by Kristofer Straub



MEDIUM LARGE by Francesco Marciuliano



white ninia by Scott Bevan



Title Run

Men's Soccer focused on Nationals

Brian McLennon, Sports Editor



The Douglas College Royals Men's Soccer team are the 2005 BCCAA Provincial Champions. With a 2-1 win over the number-one seed Capilano Blues, the Royals advance to the 2005 Big Kahua/Adidas Canadian Colleges' Athletic Association (CCAA) National Soccer Championships on November 9, 2005 at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex.

In front a capacity crowd at McArthur Island Park in Kamloops, BC, the two teams took to the field in what was probably the most anticipated match of the soccer season. "What a way to end the season," said one spectator. "An exciting rematch of last year's [Provincial] finals." The Royals knew they were facing a determined Capilano team who would be looking to avenge last year's 4-0 defeat. As the game got started,

the emotions and energy were running high, but the fans had to wait until the 44th minute of the first half when All-Canadian and BCCAA Player of the Year, Cameron Wilson, scored to give the Royals a 1-0 lead going into the break.

In the second half, the Royals continued to utilize the clock well as Capilano tried to get the equalizer, but were turned away each time by goal keeper, Kris Johansson, who was nominated the best goal keeper of the tournament. Player of Game, Casey Wilson, chipped home the Royals' second marker to solidify the victory of Douglas. With their third Provincial Championships in four years, the Royals will make another run at a National Championship that has eluded them since their first appearance in 2002. The

Royals took home the silver in '02, and then the bronze in the '03.

"I have a pretty good feeling about this group of guys, there is something special about them," said Head Coach, Joe Ormerod. "Unlike other years, we have so many good players; it will make it difficult to scout us." Actually, the Royals have a multitude weapons and they can call upon at anytime.

First, there is Player and Rookie of the Year, Cameron Wilson. In my many years of watching the soccer team, I haven't seen a more exciting player wear the Royals uniform. Secondly, they have BCCAA Tournament MVP and first team All-Star, Mike Woolridge. Now in his third year, you can see a growth and maturity that has allowed him to be a team leader on this young team. "It's important for us to stay loose and go in with confidence," said Woolridge. After suffering a broke nose at last year's Nationals, Woolridge welcomes the second chance to win National glory. Thirdly, Matt Telford, the First Team All-Star who has won a couple of BCCAA Athlete of the Week awards and is a force to be reckoned with by opponents.

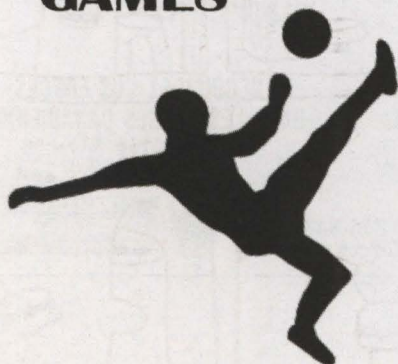
Added to this stalwart list of players is rookie sensation Ivan Estada, who was named Best Forward in the BCCAA tournament. This kid has loads of potential and is a very dynamic player with tremendous speed and skills. Lastly, probably what I think is the most underrated position in the game, the Goalkeeper. Kris Johansson finally got his dues with being named the Best Goalkeeper in the BCCAA Championships. The sophomore has returned this year and done an outstanding job between posts for the Royals.

The Royals—seeded fourth overall—will look to make their National title run this week starting Wednesday, November 9, at the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex in Burnaby. Their first round match is against fifth seeded University of New Brunswick, Saint John's.

"This is Nationals, every team is there for a reason. We need to stay focused on our goal," said Ormerod. "Defeating UNBSJ is part of the goal."

For more information, visit the Royals Athletic website at www.douglas.bc.ca/athletics.

UPCOMING GAMES



Thursday, November 10

National Soccer Championships @ Burnaby Lake
Douglas vs. UNBSJ

Friday, November 11

National Soccer Championships @ Burnaby Lake
Douglas vs. NAIT
Basketball @ Kwantlen—Women: 6pm, Men: 8pm
Volleyball vs. COTR—Women: 6pm, Men: 8pm

Saturday, November 12

National Soccer Championships @ Burnaby Lake,
Medal Rounds
Basketball @ Kwantlen—Women: 6pm, Men: 8pm
Volleyball vs. COTR—Women: 2pm, Men: 3:30pm

Women's Rugby

vs. SFU (Premier) 1pm
vs. UBCOG (Div. I) 11:30am
vs. Abbotsford (Div. II) 2pm
Men's Rugby
vs. Langley (1st Div.), 2:30pm
vs. Langley(2nd Div.), 1:00pm
vs. Rogues (3rd Div.), 11:30am

Sunday, November 13

Wrestling @ Boxer Open, Forrest Grove, OR.

Sports Down Under Make it a Makybe Mate

Darren Patterson, OP Contributor



Well hey there up over'ers. How's life in the grand ol' C-to-the-D-to-the-A? It looks like the Canucks are doing well, and that's good to see. I certainly miss watching hockey and I read an article that said Bertuzzi finally put on a little flash against Colorado last week.

But I'm not writing this bit to talk hockey. I'm sure you must be doing that enough on your own. I'm writing this bit to talk about Australian sport where rugby (both union and league) and cricket are numbers two and three in the Aussie sporting scene.

"But what's the number one sport?" you ask. Why don't you quit asking questions and I'll get to it, damn it.

In the spring of 2001, I fell in love. Maybe it was the sun's warmth, or the scent of the blooming flowers, but everything about me just heightened my love for the most beautiful girl I have ever-What? I'm rambling? Oh. Sorry....

In Australia, there is a single sporting event that is more popular than the Rugby League Grand Final and the Ashes Cricket Series put together. It's the "race that stops a nation," the Melbourne Cup. What kind of racing is it? (No I wasn't asking you, it was a rhetorical question that I was about to answer.) It's horse racing. That's right, once a year every Australian is captivated by a few minutes of horses racing round the track.

This year, there were over \$56 million bets on the race, one million of which came from just one man who bet on a horse named Makybe (Ma-kye-bee) Diva, the resounding favourite.

Prior to the race, Makybe Diva's fame was being compared with some of Australia's greatest athletes (including Cathy Freeman, Dawn Fraser, and even Fahr Lap, another horse who had won the Melbourne Cup way back at the dawn of the century...last century that is. Geez, is it 2005 already?) for having won two Melbourne Cups in a row. After the race, Diva had cemented her status as a legend in Australian sport, having won an unprecedented third Cup in a row.

In the newspapers, Diva is referred to like a human athlete, having gained the respect of all Australians. Little mention is made of the owner, trainer, and jockey when 2005's Melbourne Cup is spoken of. Really only Diva's name comes up in those conversations.

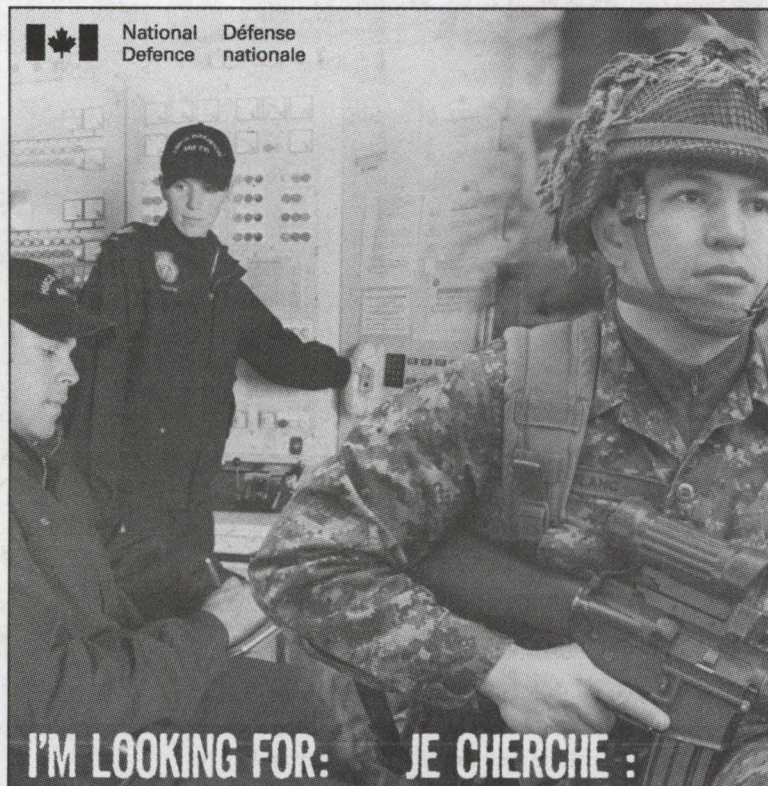
For my part, I was rather disinterested in the race until I heard that a record could be set. But when it was related to me how important this race is to Australia and how impossible it would be for Diva to win a third Cup in a row, I was suddenly captivated. I love to see the impossible made possible and, like Lance Armstrong, Diva has set a new standard in her class of racing.

Diva's owner retired her from racing during his podium speech, telling fans that she will now play a role in the breeding of future champions. But that is of little matter as her fame and her place in sports history has already been set in stone...at least in Australia.



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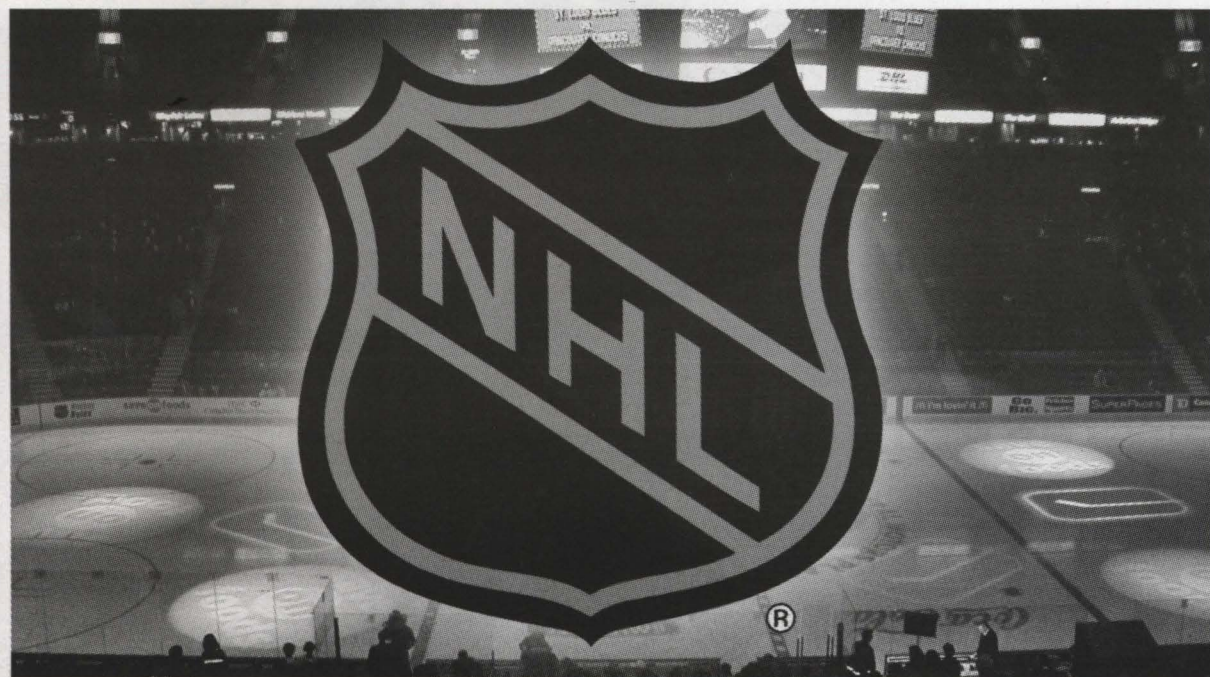


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The Puck Drops Here

NHL—The first month

Steph Smith, OP Contributor



After a year off, a thousand new rules, and a million-and-a-half trades, the NHL is back. Many of the teams that have always done well in the past are struggling to stay afloat, and teams that you would never have given the time of day to are kicking ass. Here is how they have measured up the first month.

Anaheim Mighty Ducks—They are about where they were expected to be. With the acquisition of Scott Niedermeyer and Teemu Selanne in the off season, they expected to solidify themselves both upfront and in front of the net. They are doing okay, but they are not as defensively solid as they had thought they were going to be. This is a common problem in the new NHL.

Calgary Flames—They got Tony Amonte during the strike and hoped to maintain their status as a Stanley Cup contender. This is not the case, and they are last place in their division. Sometimes a Stanley Cup run is based on nothing more than a timely hot streak, and it looks as though this was the case with the Flames. Better luck next year.

Colorado Avalanche—They lost Forsberg and Kariya, and have not been the offensive power they have always been in the past. They have always been the leaders in their division and this year they are not. The year is still young, however, and there is still time. But if they want to put up the numbers they have in years gone by, they are going to have to play a much stronger game.

Dallas Stars—While they are second in their division, they are not doing well in the grand scheme of things. They have solid goaltending, but they are lacking in both offence and defence. If they continue on at the same pace they are at, they will not be a threat.

Detroit Red Wings—Top of their division, top of the league, a scary ass team to play. Manny Legace is a goaltending mutant at the present moment. They are not only scoring goals, but keeping them out too. Head and

shoulders above the whole league, they look to be a powerful obstacle in the NHL.

Edmonton Oilers—The Oilers picked up Michael Peca and Chris Pronger before the start of the season in the hopes that they would lend some power to the team. They want to make the playoffs this year, and Peca and Pronger are their hope. Sadly, they are not doing as well as they wanted and are barely over 500.

Minnesota Wild—Second in the division and a few points back of the Canucks, they are built for speed. Timely goaltending has lead to some impressive wins. They might prove to be a thorn in the side of many teams, as they are quicker than most people will give them credit for.

Montreal Canadiens—A team that made very few changes in the off-season, they are on top of their division at the present moment. Solid goaltending from Jose Theodore has come in handy as of late. Despite the disappointment suffered in last year's playoffs, they have come back as strong as ever and as solid as ever.

Nashville Predators—Who would have thought that the Nashville Predators would have started the season out on an 8 game winning streak? Paul Kariya is a perfect fit on this young, fast team. It's not the old NHL anymore; you can no longer just toss away expansion teams. Look out for the Preds to do some serious harm in the coming season.

New Jersey Devils—They are struggling with the new rules, the new goaltending equipment, and the losses of Scott Niedermeyer and Scott Stevens. Without solid defence in front of him, Martin Brodeur is looking a little worse for wear. They have always been a powerful team, but will need to kick it up a notch if they want a shot at the Cup this year.

Ottawa Senators—A new coach, a new goalie, and a new young forward have made this team a scary one to face. Dominik Hasek has stood up to criticisms that he

is too old and out of practice. The front line of Jason Spezza, Daniel Alfredsson, and Dany Heatley has been kicking ass and taking names. They are a force to be reckoned with.

Philadelphia Flyers—They gained Peter Forsberg, Mike Rathje, and Darian Hatcher in the off-season. This was to up the offence and to replace departed forwards Jeremy Roenick and John LeClair. Always a scary team to play, they have really not been as frightening as one would have thought based on their new line-up. A couple of tweaks, though, and they could be scary as hell.

Phoenix Coyotes—With Wayne Gretzky as their coach, many looked to Phoenix with anticipation. But problems early on in adjusting to the new rules and the retirement of Brett Hull have not helped the team. They are struggling as they always have in the past.

Pittsburgh Penguins—This team looked so good on paper before the start of the season. They got the number one draft pick, Sidney Crosby, and he now plays alongside Mario Lemieux. They got Ziggy Palffy, Mark Recchi, John LeClair, and Sergei Gonchar in the off season. The problem is they are not producing on the level they were expected to. Time will tell if they will figure it out and be able to work together. If they continue at the same pace they are at right now, they will be last place this season, as they were last.

San Jose Sharks—They aren't doing as well as they have in recent years. They have always been a quick team with solid goaltending, but it is not working for them in the new NHL. They are not winning games the same as they used to, and will need to adjust to the new style of play if they want to advance later on.

Tampa Bay Lightning—They lost Nikolai Khabibulan in the off-season when he went to play for Chicago, but made few other changes to their line-up. The Lightning are not doing as well as expected. The former Stanley Cup Champions are doing okay, but will have to step it up if they want to defend their title.

Toronto Maple Leafs—Plagued by salary cap issues, the Toronto Maple Leafs lost many high paid players. They were replaced by what was thought to be younger and equally efficient players. However, after the loss of Sundin in the first period of the first game of the season, they are struggling to win games and are barely above .500. If they stay healthy, and if Ed Belfour can adjust to the new rules, they might just sneak into the playoffs. If they don't, then it's early golf season for the Leafs.

Vancouver Canucks—If Todd Bertuzzi can pull himself out of his slump, this team will go all the way. They have established speed and chemistry and despite the lack of movement during the off season, they look as solid as they ever have, if not more so. Expect good things from this team this year as they are quick, offensively powerful, and defensively solid.

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I Saw You

I saw you at WPNCUP. You were sleeping and I was snapping photos. You are an overreactive wang-on who should learn to take a joke. Boo hoo, you got picked on. Life sucks, get a helmet. See ya back in Ritzville.

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Last Call

Amanda Aikman, OP Columnist



Dear Amanda,

I'm confused. I've been dating my current girlfriend for almost five months and things seem to be going really well, except for one thing...she hasn't introduced me to her friends yet. Whenever she goes out with them, which is often, she always says, "you wouldn't be interested," or "I wouldn't want to bore you." I tell her I would be interested, because I'm interested in her and I don't find her boring, but she just laughs it off and goes without me anyway. What gives? She's been out with my friends many times, and she's even met my family (of course, I haven't met her family yet), so why won't she let me hang with her compadres?

Yours truly,
Feeling Dissed

Dear Dissed,

Uh, first of all, do you make a habit of saying things like "hang with her compadres?" 'Cuz that could be your problem right there.

If that's not it, there are other possible explanations for your girl's behaviour. Like, perhaps she really does think that her friends will bore you. Or, more likely, she's either A) cheating on you or B) embarrassed by you. Let's look at the options, shall we?

Are you an extremely interesting, exciting, thrill seeking kind of fella? Probably not, or you'd be out nude skydiving instead of writing into advice columns. So, let's just go ahead and rule out option number one.

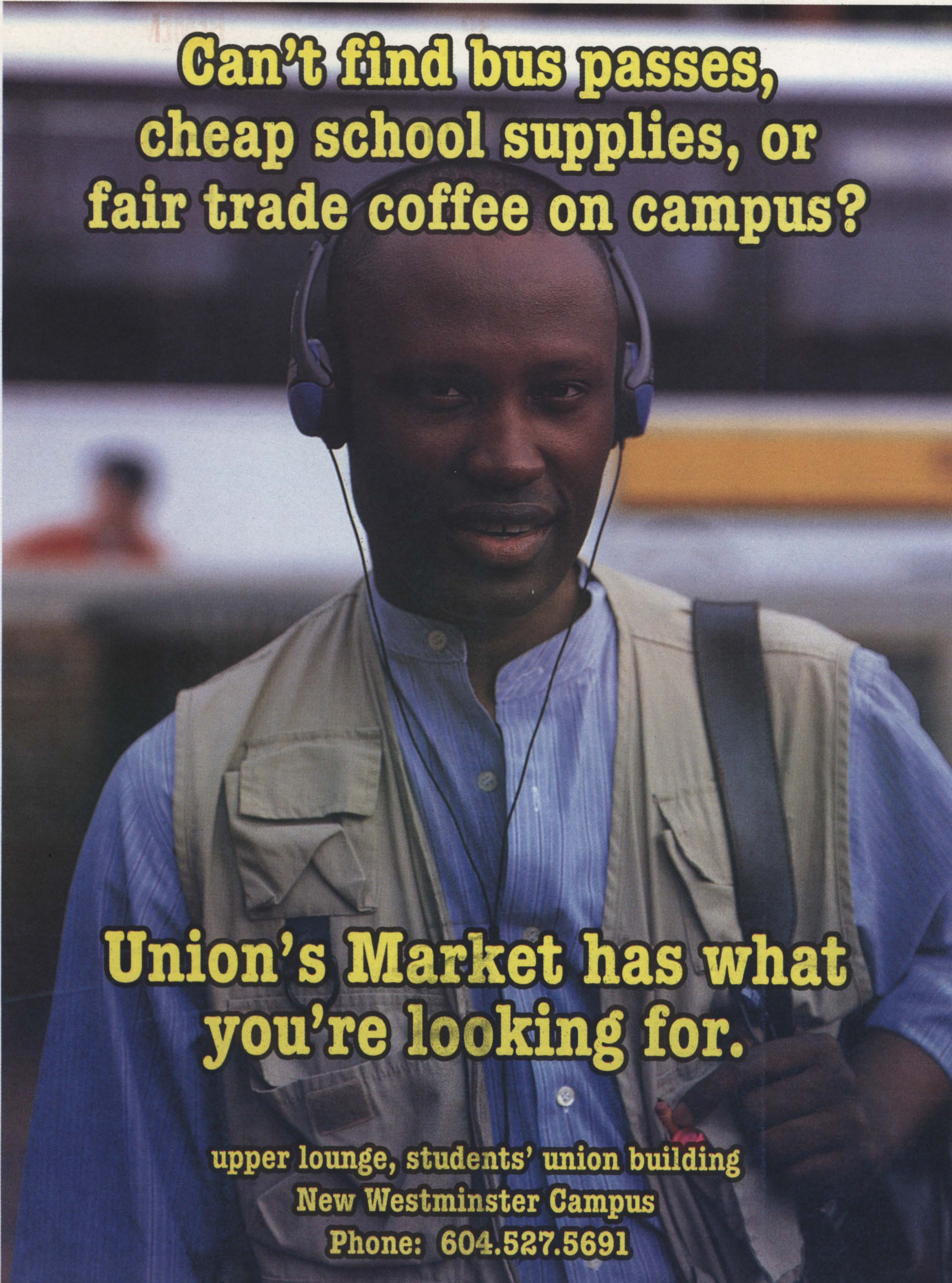
That brings us to "cheating on you." These "friends" that your lady keeps stepping out with, do "they" happen to be a guy named Steve who drives a kickass van? When she goes out with her "boring" gal pals, does she often come home wearing a different shade of lipstick and less undergarments than she left with? Does she seem to be especially tired or to develop mysterious headaches after her girls' nights out? If so, chances are you're not the only stud on the ranch, baby.

Okay, so if your girlfriend's girlfriends really do exist, that brings us to option three—she's embarrassed by you. Now, think carefully. Why would she be embarrassed by you? Are you ugly/stupid/smelly/fat/French Canadian/cheap/short/rude/follically challenged—or any combination thereof? Do you have a really stupid laugh? Do you make gross sounds when you eat? Do

you think Good Charlotte are musical geniuses way ahead of their time? It could be so many things, really. But there's no point in obsessing over every little annoying habit you have, or every disgusting noise and/or smell you emit—that could drive you mad.

My advice to you is to tell your girlfriend that it is important to you to meet her friends and that you are concerned by the fact that she hasn't hooked it up yet. Or, if you really are so unattractive and socially repellant that she feels the need to keep you hidden from her friends and family—you should just be grateful that she's willing to slum it with you at all, and just keep things the way they are. After all, if you rock the boat too hard you could end up in the water by yourself.

Sincerely,
Amanda Aikman
lastcall_op@yahoo.ca



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